

Report to Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee

To: Chair and Members
Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee

From: Cheryl Smith, Deputy City Manager, Neighbourhood and Community-Wide Services

Subject: London Community Grants Program Innovation and Capital Funding Allocations (2021)

Date: June 23, 2021

Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Neighbourhood and Community-Wide Services, the report dated June 23, 2021, titled "London Community Grants Program Innovation and Capital Funding Allocations (2021)", **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Executive Summary

This report presents the 2021 allocations for the Innovation and Capital granting stream of the London Community Grants Program. This report also provides an update on the implementation of the London Community Grants Program.

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the 2021 allocations for the Innovation and Capital stream.

Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

The London Community Grants Program is aligned with two strategic areas of focus, as presented in the City of London Strategic Plan 2019-2023.

- Strengthening Our Community under the outcome Londoners are engaged and have a sense of belonging in their neighbourhoods and community.
- Creating a Safe London for Women and Girls under the outcome London has enhanced the potential for women and girls to live safe lives.

Analysis

1.0 Background Information

1.1 Previous Reports Related to this Matter

- [London Community Grants Program Policy Update](#) (January 26, 2021)
- [London Community Grants Program Allocations](#) (November 25, 2019)
- [London Community Grants Policy Update](#) (April 8, 2019)
- [London Community Grants Program: 2017 Annual Report & 2018 Innovation and Capital Stream Outcomes and Sustainability Plans](#) (March 26, 2018)
- [London Community Grants Program Innovation & Capital Funding Allocations](#) (September 17, 2018)
- [London Community Grants Program Innovation & Capital Funding Allocations](#) (September 18, 2017)

2.0 Discussion and Considerations

2.1 Background and Purpose

The London Community Grants Program (LCGP) provides funding for programs and initiatives that align with the City of London's Strategic Plan or through Council-directed emerging priorities.

Through the 2020-2023 Multi-Year budget process, \$495,954 was allocated to the Innovation and Capital Stream. On February 2, 2021, Council approved the updated London Community Grants Policy that states a minimum of 25% of the total funding for the Innovation and Capital Funding Stream will be allocated to applications whose proposals would support anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous racism, anti-oppression, diversity, inclusion, and equity, it being noted that if no applications are received that would support these initiatives, the funding may be allocated to those applications that meet the London Community Grants Program Policy.

In March of 2021, the application for the 2021 LCGP Innovation and Capital Stream was launched.

During the application intake period, Civic Administration offered three virtual information sessions and provided one-to-one support for organizations as needed.

A total of 51 applications (36 Innovation and 15 Capital) were received, with requests totalling more than \$3M. Twenty-three of these applications (45%) were from groups applying to the LCGP for the first time.

See Appendix A attached for allocation details.

The Community Review Panel supported funding 10 applications: eight Innovation and two Capital projects. Of these projects:

- 86.5% of the total Innovation and Capital budget was allocated toward projects that the Community Review Panel agreed advance anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous racism, anti-oppression, diversity, inclusion, and equity; and,
- Five of the 10 funded recipients had not been previously funded through the LCGP.

As per the [London Community Grants Program Allocations \(November 25, 2019\) report](#), members of the Community Review Panel will remain anonymous until all funding decisions have been made at the end of the 2023 application review process, prior to the next Multi-Year Grant funding cycle.

3.0 London Community Grants Program Policy Update

3.1 London Community Grants Program Policy Changes for 2021

As part of the updated London Community Grants Policy in February 2021, Council also approved the following changes in 2021:

- Added requirement to the Capital grant application process that applicants must demonstrate they have applied to other relevant capital funding opportunities; and,
- Changed the composition of the Community Review Panel to decrease the number of City staff by one and increase the number of community experts by one to provide guidance on the Council-directed emerging priority of Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression.

Work to remove barriers to the London Community Grants Program for racialized and marginalized groups is ongoing. Civic Administration coordinated an anti-racism, anti-oppression, diversity, and inclusion training session for panel members and City staff supports in advance of the 2021 Innovation and Capital review process.

Additional changes will be made to the LCG Policy as outlined in the [January 26, 2021 Strategic Priorities and Policy report](#). It is anticipated that all changes will be completed prior to the next LCGP Multi-Year funding cycle (2024–2027).

4.0 Next Steps

Civic Administration will work with all successful applicants to create and sign grant agreements for funding to be released as soon as agreements are signed by both parties. Through the formal grant agreement, financial and outcome reporting expectations are clearly outlined.

5.0 Financial Impact/Considerations

Annual funding to support the LCGP was part of the Neighbourhood, Children and Fire Services budget, which was approved through the 2020-2023 Multi-Year Budget process. Following the corporate wide restructuring process, this funding now exists in the Neighbourhood and Community-Wide Services operating budget.

Conclusion

The London Community Grants Program is an investment in community, providing not-for-profit organizations and groups with opportunities to strengthen neighbourhoods and build the health and well-being of local communities in alignment with the City of London's Strategic Plan and Council-directed emerging priorities.

Civic Administration is committed to ongoing action to reduce barriers and build a more inclusive, responsive, and impactful London Community Grants Program.

Prepared by:	Alexis Kampman, Specialist II, Municipal Policy Janice Walter, Manager, Neighbourhood and Community Funding
Submitted by:	Kristen Pawelec, Manager, Neighbourhood and Community Initiatives
Recommended by:	Cheryl Smith, Deputy City Manager, Neighbourhood and Community-Wide Services

c. Meng Liu, Senior Financial Business Administrator, Financial Supports
Douglas Drummond, Financial Business Administrator, Financial Supports

LONDON COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM 2021 INNOVATION & CAPITAL FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

APPENDIX A

CAPITAL						
Organization / Project Description	BSC	SOC	GOE	CSL	ARAO	Total
Boys' & Girls' Club of London (Gym Improvement) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding will support the refurbishing of the gymnasium floor, providing increased recreational opportunities for children, youth, seniors, families, and community partners. The new gym floor will offer more functional space that will allow more recreation and sport activities and increase physical activity participation of members and visitors. 		✓			✓	\$35,000
Southwest Aboriginal Health Access Centre (Nshwaasngong Child Care and Family Centre) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding will support the installation of the security system at the Child Care and Family Centre, providing a safe and secure place for children and families to gather and learn. 		✓			✓	\$80,000
INNOVATION						
Aeolian Hall Musical Arts Association / Black London Network (Black London Network Outreach Program) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding will support virtual workshops and lessons for children and youth on Black confidence, leadership, current events, Black history, culture, and music. Sessions will feature Black leaders, historians, and activists, strengthening Black history education and fostering increased engagement and a sense of inclusion for London's Black communities. 		✓			✓	\$87,511
Nigerian Association of London and Area (Mental Health Programming for Racialized Londoners) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding will support the delivery of a range of dignified, inclusive, and compassionate mental health and addiction services, supports, and educational programs for racialized communities. Community partnerships and referrals with service providers will be strengthened through collaboration and education opportunities. 		✓			✓	\$43,000
Pillar Nonprofit Network (Mobilizing for an Inclusive Economy & Community) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding will support the development of Equity & Inclusion Reflection and Framework and Toolkits. Resources will be co-created with equity serving organizations that have lived experience and systems expertise to develop, test, and implement a racial and gender+ equity lens framework and toolkits, which can be applied at the citizen, organizational, and community level. 		✓			✓	\$35,000
ReForest London (Seed Hub & Community Tree Nursery Development) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding will support the implementation of London's first native tree seed program and community nursery. Based on best practices, the program develops the seed inventory, recruits and trains volunteers and conducts seeding activities across the city. 	✓					\$32,350

INNOVATION						
Organization / Project Description	BSC	SOC	GOE	CSL	ARAO	TOTAL
Thames Region Ecological Association (TREA) (The London Thing Library) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The London Thing Library is a community space where Londoners can access household tools, equipment, and training to share, repair, create, and learn together. The library provides a low-cost, circular economy approach for residents, reducing barriers to accesses tools and workshops while increasing environmental awareness. 		✓				\$34,500
The Congress of Black Women Ontario Inc. (Future Smart Youth Program) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding will support the development of a program for London youth to enhance social, personal, and career life skills. The program will be designed with the consciousness of the challenges that marginalized youth have experienced and will better equip them to be successful. 		✓			✓	\$33,000
The London Cross-Cultural Learner Centre (Yazidi Children and Youth Peer Support Project) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding will support a new locally created innovative peer support program addressing the needs of traumatized children and youth through peer support and mentorship. The program aims to improve the social, spiritual, and mental wellness of the Yazidi youth and children while considering non-westernized approaches, linguistic, and cultural background. Creating leadership and mentoring opportunities, empowering youth and creating a sense of belonging in a safe and welcoming community. 		✓			✓	\$84,518
WeBridge Community Services (Voices: Black Seniors and Youth Educational Workshops) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding will support Black identifying seniors and youth through educative sessions creating a space to meet, learn, and share experiences. Using an Afrocentric model will help to empower and strengthen intergenerational, community, and personal growth connections. 		✓			✓	\$31,075

Legend

Building a Sustainable City (BSC)
Strengthening Our Community (SOC)
Growing Our Economy (GOE)
Creating a Safe London for Women and Girls (CSL)
Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression, Equity, and Inclusion Projects (ARAO)