



**12.5 CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (CDF) PROJECTS
GRANTS 2024 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER: BRIAN TEE, GENERAL MANAGER, CITY GROWTH AND
DEVELOPMENT**

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1. PURPOSE

1.1 To present the recommended Cultural Development Fund (CDF)-Projects grant recipients for 2023/24 for Council approval.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Cultural Development Fund (CDF)-Projects grants are provided by Council to support local artists and related creative and community organisations to develop creative projects that will engage our community.
- 2.2 This report presents Council with a list of proposed grants recommended by the Cultural Development Fund Reference Committee. Funded projects will occur between January 2024 and December 2024.
- 2.3 A total of \$125,254 in grants has been recommended for 12 successful projects for this 2023/24 round out of the maximum budget of \$125,000. (The additional \$254.00 will be covered from existing budget).
- 2.4 36 applications were received, requesting Council funding of \$359,121 for projects valued at a total of \$1,199,066. There were 14 first time applicants to a Port Phillip CDF-Projects or other CoPP grant round.
- 2.5 12 projects with a total value of \$360,801 have been recommended. This represents an average of \$2.88 for every \$1 invested by Council.
- 2.6 Other funding sources sought for projects include Creative Victoria and other Victorian Government grants, Creative Australia (previously Australia Council for the Arts), philanthropic funds, artist/organisation contributions and a range of in-kind support.
- 2.7 Local venues providing support and/or hosting project development include the St Kilda Library, Temperance Hall, Gasworks Arts Park, Linden New Art, Theatre Works, Veg Out Community Gardens, Sacred Heart Mission Op Shop and the Park Towers Social Housing Estate.
- 2.8 Projects will be held in St Kilda, Albert Park and South Melbourne.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Endorses the recommended successful applicants (project numbers 1-12) as proposed by the Cultural Development Fund Committee for the Cultural Development Fund – Projects grants for 2023/24 as outlined in Confidential **Attachment 1**.
- 3.2 Notes that in the event a successful applicant is not able to proceed with their project, the Committee’s highly commended applications are recommended for funding in the order as outlined in Confidential **Attachment 1**.



- 3.3 Makes public successful applicants for the Cultural Development Fund - Projects grants 2023/24 following an applicant notification process.
- 3.4 Thanks the Cultural Development Fund Reference Committee for their work in assessing applications and making recommendations to Council.
- 3.5 Thanks all applicants who participated in the 2023/24 funding round of the Cultural Development Fund.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 The purpose of the Cultural Development Fund is to support local artists, groups or arts and related organisations to develop highly creative and innovative projects that engage our community.
- 4.2 The CDF-Projects grants are a competitive funding round, open to all artforms, including cultural heritage projects and is designed to develop new work, reconnect with our communities and celebrate the creative life of the City.
- 4.3 Key Objectives include:
 - Support artists and organisations to develop and realise creative projects in the City of Port Phillip;
 - Support capacity building, mentoring, partnerships or collaborative development, and arts engagement activities;
 - Support and engage diverse communities of all ages and backgrounds, including the development of work that engages with the wider Port Phillip community;
 - Generate arts, cultural and heritage activity in our neighbourhoods and precincts.
- 4.4 The guidelines and selection criteria support unique projects, as opposed to core programs or projects that are currently funded by another council program. Selection criteria includes:
 - 4.4.1 Essential Funding Criteria
 - Projects must demonstrate creativity, artistic intention and innovation or cultural significance;
 - Funded activities must be based in the City of Port Phillip;
 - Applications should indicate the project's value to City of Port Phillip audiences, readers, viewers, or users;
 - Project participants living or working in the City of Port Phillip are involved in the project;
 - Project expenditure equals project income and applicant must demonstrate that the project can proceed if any other funding applications are unsuccessful.
 - 4.4.2 Desirable Funding Criteria
 - Projects need to demonstrate that they meet three or more of the following:
 - 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;
- Support partnerships with other organisations;
- Encourage awareness of environmental sustainability through the arts.

4.5 The process for application is as follows:

- A call for applications was advertised through Diversity, Council's website and a social media campaign from 31 July 2023;
- A free online information and grant writing training workshop was held in August 2023;
- Applicants could access the guidelines and application form through the website or by contacting staff;
- Applications were made using the online grants management system, Smartygrants and staff provided access assistance and advice;
- Applications were assessed by the Cultural Development Fund Reference Committee according to the criteria at a meeting in October 2023.

4.6 The Committee noted a very high standard of applications with a broad range of artforms for this round.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

5.1 The 2023 Cultural Development Fund Reference Committee is chaired by the City of Port Phillip's Coordinator Grants and Community Building. Councillor Louise Crawford is a member of the Committee, and other members of the Committee are community members with specialist arts and cultural expertise, who were appointed by Council for a three-year term following an expression of interest process. These panel members were approved by Council in an Ordinary Meeting of Council Wednesday 19 July 2023.

5.2 Individual artists and unincorporated group or collective projects are supported through the grant process by peak not-for-profit cultural organisations with an auspice service; Auspicious Arts Projects, Arts Access Victoria and Multicultural Arts Victoria, to improve access to the program and build capacity within communities.

5.3 Feedback from applicants is sought for the process of continuous improvement.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no known risks to Council in adopting this recommendation.

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

7.1 The total amount of funding recommended for the 12 projects is \$125,254 out of the \$125,000 provided for in the 2023/24 budget. (The additional \$254.00 will be covered from existing budget).

7.2 Creative practice is recognised as making a valuable contribution to City of Port Phillip's economy. As a sector, creative and cultural practice and industries are the second largest employer in the City of Port Phillip.

7.3 Funded projects support activity in local venues and precincts across the municipality and in Port Phillip public spaces.



8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 8.1 Applications for funding are required to be environmentally responsible. Applicants are increasingly aware of environmental concerns as a topic for both project process and content.
- 8.2 Artists as well as arts and community organisations will be made aware of the commitment to environmental sustainability through the Council Plan and Cultural Development Fund Guidelines.
- 8.3 Implementation of SmartyGrants (an online grants application system) has led to a dramatic decrease in paper use as the application and assessment process are online.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 The Cultural Development Fund Projects grants will support artists and organisations to develop new work and manage projects during a continued period of Covid19 recovery.
- 9.2 Arts, heritage and culture are contributing factors to community health and wellbeing. A high number of projects are concerned with gender, inclusion and environmental sustainability and impact, reflecting community concerns and discourse.
- 9.3 Funded projects offer free or low-cost access to diverse cultural events across the municipality.
- 9.4 Artists and participants of all abilities and diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply and are included in funded projects.

10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 10.1 Funding under the Cultural Development Fund delivers on the current Council Plan 2021-2031.
- 10.2 Projects supported through the Cultural Development Fund also contribute to key directions in the Council Plan:
 - Vibrant: with a flourishing economy, where our community and local business thrive, and we maintain and enhance our reputation as one of Melbourne's cultural and creative hubs;
 - Inclusive: a place for all members of our community, where people feel supported and comfortable being themselves and expressing their identities.
- 10.3 The proposed recommendation is aligned with the City of Port Phillip Creative and Prosperous City Strategy 2023 – 2026, continuing to support, develop and further grow our key creative industries and ensuring funded arts activity is focussed on generating local visitation and community participation.

11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

11.1 TIMELINE

- 11.1.1 Successful projects will be listed on Council's website and promoted through the community events listing.
- 11.1.2 Funded projects will be conducted between January 2024 and December 2024 and acquitted within eight weeks of completion.

11.2 COMMUNICATION

- 11.2.1 Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application soon after Council's decision.

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11.2.2 Details of funded projects will be available on the Council website.

11.2.3 Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing and invited to receive feedback from Council Officers.

12. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

12.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any material or general interest in the matter.

ATTACHMENTS 1. *Confidential*: CDF - Projects grant recommendations