



Confidential – Community Grants
Assessment Panel Reference
Committee Recommendations 2021-
2023

Introduction

This report supports the Council Report Community Grants Assessment Panel Reference Committee Recommendations 2021-2023 to be presented to Council on 4 August 2021.

This report relates to the appointment of the four Community Members that will sit on the Committee for the period August 2021 until December 2023.

Three applications were received for the assessment of 2021-2022 and 2022-23 Community Grant Programs of which two have been recommended.

Two previously Council endorsed Community Representatives were also approached to ensure that the four vacant positions on the two panels had the necessary skills, local community knowledge and experience for the assessment process.

It is recommended that Ann Rochford, James Seow, Jamie Brunton and Julia Topliss be appointed to the Community Grants Assessment Panel Reference Committee.

Community Grants Reference Committee

The Community Grants Reference Committee meets annually to assess applications from the annual Community Grants Program. The reference committee is divided into two panels with each panel consisting of a Councillor, Senior Council Officer and two Council endorsed Community Members. The panel make recommendations for the allocation of \$280,000 Community Grant Funding.

Application Process

Advertisement

Applications were opened from 18 May 2021 to 4 June 2021. Advertisements were placed in the community sector newsletter (CoPP This!), social media and across Councils networks.

Eligibility and Assessment

To be eligible for the role applicants must:

- be residents of City of Port Phillip.
- be able to commit time to reading grant applications and attending evening panel assessments in September/October 2021.
- adhere to the CoPP confidentiality and conflict of interest requirements.
- have access to a computer and the internet to review electronic applications.

The applications were received and assessment by the Team Leader Community Capacity Building and the Grants and Funding Officer against the following criteria:

- Commitment to supporting and strengthening a diverse community that encourages the participation and inclusion of all residents.

- Understanding of issues affecting residents in City of Port Phillip including youth, families and children, seniors, women and marginalised community members.
- Knowledge of the local community organisations and groups and an awareness of local networks.

Desirable

- Involvement in local community including but not limited to clubs, organisations, committees and groups
- Experience in the administration of community funded projects and or the grants assessment process

Applications received

3 applications were received for the assessment panel via the SmartyGrants portal. These applications were then assessed with all three applicants being interviewed by the Team Leader Community Capacity Building and the Grants and Funding Officer. The following is a summary of the three individuals who applied:

Applicant	Suburb	Experience
Ann Rochford	Albert Park	Resident since 1997 Board Membership: Kilbride Centre (2000-2006), Port Melbourne Neighbourhood House, now SouthPort Community Centre (2006-2012). President; Dig In Community Garden (2001-2014), Probus Port Melbourne (current) Member: Probus Port Melbourne 2010 – present, CoPP Master Plan Committee for Murphy’s Reserve Port Melbourne
James Seow	South Melbourne	November 2015 – current: Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning: “Shrine to Sea” Project Community Panellist. Port Phillip City Council: Multicultural Advisory Committee member. Victorian Pride Centre: Community Reference Group member. Switchboard Victoria: Queer, Trans & Intersex People of Colour Advisory Committee member. ACON: National Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Advisory Group member. Thorne Harbour Health and Mind Australia: LGBTIQ Suicide Prevention Advisory Group member. Mental Health Foundation Australia: Multicultural Ambassador and Peer Support Group Facilitator.
Yosef Wolf	St Kilda East	Resident since 2019

		Grant Manager Chabad Youth – November 2019- present Fundraising Consultant JSW Writing Company November 2019 - present
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Recommended Applicants interview notes:

Applicant 1: Ann Rochford

Outline Reasons for nomination to the panel:

I have been involved in a number of organisations over the last 20 years who have applied and successfully received Council Grants. I have seen how the smaller local volunteer organisations have achieved a lot and I would be happy to give something back to the process.

What community skillset, experience or other expertise could you provide to the panel?

I have experience in education and also involvement in a number of community organisations including starting and maintain Dig In Community garden for 14 years. Being very involved in the Port Melbourne Community centre for 6 years who provide much needed services for disadvantaged and low-income residents. I have been on the committee of my Probus Club for the past 5 years

What do you hope to achieve from being part of the panel?

I would like to give back to the community, utilise my knowledge and ensure grants are assessed against the criteria set by Council.

What is your understanding of the community sector current issues being faced networks?

COVID is still impacting getting people back together older people, people with disabilities etc. Groups and organisations are still needing to adapt to be inclusive, especially for those who have difficult accessing the internet. I also have concerns about groups going under and not being able to provide support for people who are socially isolated.

Applicant 2: James Seow:

Outline Reasons for nomination to the panel:

To support the council in developing socially cohesive, inclusive, engaged, vibrant, and empowered communities in City of Port Phillip. To enable deserving groups and organisations to activate their communities and strengthen social connections. I am deeply passionate about multiculturalism, community development and engagement, social equity and innovation

What community skillset, experience or other expertise could you provide to the panel?

I currently serve in the following organisations, and am very familiar with issues and priorities related to cultural diversity, community narratives and storytelling, community development and empowerment, social inclusion and equity, social innovation, intercultural understanding, mental health and well-being, LGBTIQA+ experiences, and cross-boundary leadership. 1. Department of

Environment, Land, Water and Planning: "Shrine to Sea" Project Community Panellist (Citizens' Jury). 2. Port Phillip City Council: Multicultural Advisory Committee member. 3. Victorian Pride Centre: Community Reference Group member. 4. Switchboard Victoria: Queer, Trans & Intersex People of Colour Advisory Committee member. 5. ACON: National Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Advisory Group member. 6. Thorne Harbour Health and Mind Australia: LGBTIQ Suicide Prevention Advisory Group member. 7. Mental Health Foundation Australia: Multicultural Ambassador and Peer Support Group Facilitator. I have worked in local and national government organisations and am familiar with community development and civic engagement policies and strategies. I have supervised contract management of multi-million-dollar government projects, and disbursement of government funding.

What do you hope to achieve from being part of the panel?

I want to positively contribute to the local community and see what projects are taking place.

What is your understanding of the community sector current issues being faced networks?

The community is facing a number of significant issues including: Homelessness, vulnerable, newly arrived asylum seekers, domestic violence, gender inequality, racism, building intercultural positivity and environmental sustainability.

Recommended applicants- previously endorsed

Applicant 1: Julia Topliss (endorsed 2018)

Outline of reasons for nomination to the panel:

I have been a resident of St Kilda for 18 years; I have also been a member of the Rotary Club of St Kilda for several years - three of which I was the club President. I have participated as a volunteer and supported many of the organisations especially in the St Kilda area. I have a good knowledge of the different groups and community issues. I see my nomination as an opportunity to learn more about the community of the City of Port Phillip and the different groups doing different activities as well as lend my knowledge and experience from my years of volunteering, fundraising and running projects in the area.

What relevant community skills, knowledge or experience would you bring to the Assessment Panel?

I have worked with several community groups within my role at Rotary including fundraising activities, project creation and event management. I have run events at the St Kilda Town Hall. Through the City of Port Phillip mentoring program in 2010 I mentored Sally Tonkin when she was CEO at St Kilda Gatehouse. I have knowledge of the challenges faced by small organisations with limited resources trying to achieve positive outcomes for their community. I run a local small business in Acland Street which offers services in website design, hosting and e-marketing - a lot of our customers are Not For Profit organisations- such as Gasworks, Sacred Heart Mission & St Kilda Mums.

Please detail any connections and or affiliations with the local community sector and any other community organisations and or networks:

I am an active member of the Rotary Club of Melbourne South (St Kilda club closed down 2 years ago); my business has worked and supports the Acland Street Village Business Association since 2005, I am actively involved in supporting the St Kilda Gatehouse Op Shop (as part of the activities of my Rotary Club).

Please describe any previous experience with funding and grants processes, or experiences working with committees:

I have over 10 years' experience on the local Rotary Club Board, I have also been a member of the Membership and Marketing Committee for Rotary District 9800 which oversees over 3,000 Rotarians. I am currently assisting District 9800 with fundraising for their 2019 conference which will be held in Melbourne and will combine 4 districts (potentially over 6000 Rotarians will attend).

What do you see as the main purpose for the Community Grants Program?

For me the main purpose of the Community Grants Program is to ensure that all members of the community have an opportunity to have a voice, and that activities are promoted that are inclusive, diverse, safe and fair for all of our community.

Applicant 2: Jamie Brunton (endorsed 2017)

Outline of reasons for nomination to the panel:

I have recently moved into the City of Port Phillip after spending many years working in grants management, social policy and non-government organisations in the Northern Territory. I believe I could offer a new perspective to a grant's assessment panel, particularly because of my experience in community development and social cohesion.

What relevant community skills knowledge or experience would you bring to the panel?

I bring a large amount of skills and knowledge to the assessment panel, including significant experience and demonstrated ability to provide robust advice around grant applications, which was a key component of my role while working as a Social Policy Officer for the Northern Territory Government.

I have also demonstrated a firm understanding of community engagement and social inclusion through my previous employment, which will aid in assessing grant applications to ensure the best possible outcome for community.

Please describe your connection/ affiliation with the local community sector and any other community organisations and or networks.

While I am new to this area, it is a perfect opportunity for the City of Port Phillip to engage with me to gain a new perspective through the assessment of grants. I will be able to provide an outsider's view, which will reflect those who may not be already engaged in programs supported by the City of Port Phillip, resulting in clear, objective advice.

Please describe any previous experience with funding and grants processes, or experiences working with committees.

I have managed grant programs of up to \$17 million per annum for the Northern Territory Government, including the \$1.3 million Community Support Grant Program. I have regularly assessed grant applications and provided robust advice to the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory on applications.

I also worked for Darwin Festival and secured more than \$900,000 in corporate sponsorship (both cash and in-kind) in under 6 months.

I have also worked with non-government organisations to secure grant funding, including securing \$50,000 for the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair to stage a fashion parade in 2016.

What do you see as the main purpose for the Community Grants Program?

The main purpose of a Community Grants Program is to support social inclusion and community connectedness - be it through creating opportunities for people to connect with others and to engage in events and services. All of this build's community resilience, which enhances the lifestyle within the City of Port Phillip, but also provides the community with tools to be able to deal with crisis when needed.