

Date: June 25, 2009



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Neighbourhood Matching Fund

RECOMMENDATION

That Park Board receive for information this report on the Neighbourhood Matching Fund projects funded in 2008.

POLICY

On Nov. 8, 1993 the Board approved the *Neighbourhood Matching Fund (NMF) Policy and Procedures* and on March 6, 1995, the Board approved the *Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhood Matching Fund Advisory Committee*. Per the Terms of Reference, the committee reports annually to the Park Board on the previous year's program.

BACKGROUND

The Neighbourhood Matching Fund's objective is to facilitate community development in neighbourhoods and community stewardship of park land and other public spaces. The program does this by supporting a variety of projects initiated by community members that improve parks and facilities with creative, physical elements that reflect the unique character of the community.



To receive support from the NMF, community groups must 'match' their funding request with an equal amount of community resources, including volunteer time, in-kind donations and other funds raised from non-city sources.

The Fund typically supports eight to 12 projects annually. From its inception in 1993, the NMF was funded through successive Parks Capital Plans at the level of \$150,000. The funding allocated remained at that level until the 2005-2008 Capital Plan, when the amount was raised to \$200,000 to provide staff assistance to projects under development. For the 2009-2011 Capital Plan \$150,000 has been allocated.

Applications are reviewed twice a year by an Advisory Committee comprised of eight community members representative of Vancouver's diverse communities. A Park Board Commissioner sits as a non-voting member and acts as a liaison between the Committee and the Board. As well as making decisions on applications for proposed projects, the Committee makes recommendations about the program and reviews completed projects on an annual basis.

The Park Board Arts and Culture Office staff act as resources to community groups seeking information before and during project development and facilitate community interactions with other park and facility staff as the projects are realized.

Over the 15 years of the program the Advisory Committee has approved funding for 86 projects in neighbourhoods throughout the city. Neighbourhood Matching Funds have supported such projects as unique park benches, carving projects, greening projects, street banners and murals.

A listing of past projects can be found on the ArtsFinder database and accessed on the Park Board website at: www.vancouver.ca/parks/arts/index.htm.

DISCUSSION

In 2008, 13 projects for a total of \$88,020 in capital funds were supported in nine neighbourhoods. Those projects are summarized below.

1. West End Revitalization Project: \$8,300

Sponsored by the West End Residents Association. The group is working with local residents and the students of King George Secondary to develop a plan for a garden and mosaic mural to animate the walkway between the West End Community Centre and the high school.

2. Renfrew Ravine Labyrinth: \$7,600

Sponsored by the Still Moon Arts Society. Community members will be repairing the popular labyrinth in Renfrew Ravine, planting a native garden, and creating interpretive signage.

3. Collingwood Neighbourhood House planter mosaics: \$5,000

Sponsored by the Collingwood Neighbourhood House. The planters for the rooftop gardens were decorated with mosaics designed and installed by local residents and community members of diverse ages and backgrounds.

4. The Neighbourhood's Garden: \$10,000

Sponsored by the Environmental Youth Alliance in partnership with the Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House. This was a two-part project that brought colour and vibrancy into an otherwise dreary corner of the downtown eastside. Part 1 was a mural on the west wall of the neighbourhood house, designed and painted by local residents under the guidance of artist Carole Tysoe. Part 2 was the creation of an indigenous plant garden, planted by community members under the supervision of landscape architect Lesya Fesiak and the Environmental Youth Alliance.

5. Clinton Park Fountain Mosaic: \$920

Sponsored by Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House. Under the guidance of artist Yoko Tomita, local residents created and installed a mosaic on the concrete water fountain in Clinton Park.

6. Robson Park Mural: \$1,500

Sponsored by the Mount Pleasant Family Centre, the mural on the Robson Park tennis wall will be re-done with extensive community participation under the guidance of artist Millie Balance.

7. Dunbar 50th Anniversary Garden—decorative cedar fencing posts: \$10,000

Sponsored by the Dunbar Community Centre Association. Under the supervision of artist Pat Beaton, the group will carve 11 eight foot posts that will act as creative fencing and seating for the 50th Anniversary Garden already under construction.

8. Wall of Dreams—Ray-Cam Gym Mural: \$7,500

Sponsored by the Ray-Cam Community Association. Working with artist Jerry Whitehead, the community will participate in a new mural for the Ray-Cam gym that will reflect the diversity of the neighbourhood.

9. Kitsilano Ice Rink winter sports mosaic: \$10,000

Sponsored by the Kitsilano War Memorial Community Association. Working with artist Corinna Hanson, the community will create mosaics based on winter sports themes. Using plywood cut-outs in the forms of people engaged in sports, community members will create the mosaics which will then be mounted to the outside wall by the entrance to the Kitsilano Ice Rink.

10. Tupper Integrated Neighbourhood Greenway mosaic benches: \$9,500

Working with artist Corinna Hanson, the community will build up to five creative mosaic benches to install in the Tupper Greenway near Sir Charles Tupper Secondary School.

11. Building Blocks Mural and Fountain Mosaics: \$4,700

Sponsored by the Renfrew Park Community Association. Working with artist Yoko Tomita, the community will work to re-do the outdated mural in the community centre's Room 8 and create a mosaic on the water fountain in Renfrew Park.

12. Punjabi Market banners: \$9,000

South Vancouver Neighbourhood House will work in partnership with the Sunset CityPlan Committee, John Oliver High School, Langara College and the Punjabi Market Association on a banner project that will involve a diverse group of community members in the planning, design and creation of banners to be installed on Main Street between 48th and 51st Aves.

13. Britannia Gym C mural: \$10,000

Sponsored by Britannia Community Services Centre. Working with artist Richard Tetrault, the baccalaureate students of Britannia Secondary School will paint a mural on the wall outside Britannia's Gym C based on designs developed in workshops with community members.

SUMMARY

Staff wishes to thank all members of the Neighbourhood Matching Fund Advisory Committee and recommends the Board accept this information report on the Neighbourhood Matching Fund projects funded in 2008.