



Date: December 21, 2001

**TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation**  
**FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation**

**SUBJECT: NEIGHBOURHOOD MATCHING FUND - 2001**

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## RECOMMENDATION

*THAT the Board receive this report for information.*

## POLICY

In 1993, the Board established the Neighbourhood Matching Fund (NMF) program to support neighbourhood initiated projects which improve public space and build neighbourhood connections. The program is overseen by Board appointed Neighbourhood Matching Fund Advisory Committee composed of community members and representatives from community centre associations (Appendix 1). In 1995, staff were given the authority to decide on funding allocations to the projects based on the advice of this committee.

## BACKGROUND

The NMF program supports projects which actively involve community members in planning and creating changes to enhance their neighbourhood. All projects must be on park land or other public property such as school grounds or streets. Past projects funded have included tree planting, ceramic tile walls, murals, information kiosks, street banners, pebble mosaics and mosaic inlays. A listing of past projects can be seen on the Park Board web-site [www.parks.vancouver.bc.ca](http://www.parks.vancouver.bc.ca) under Recreation Services, Art and Community Building Programs.

The NMF is funded by the capital plan and has an annual budget of \$50,000. The maximum funding for a project is \$10,000 but most projects receive less than \$5,000. The community contribution in services, volunteer labour or other funds raised is known as the 'match' and is equal to or greater than the funds from the NMF. A small contribution from the NMF often produces significant legacies.

Hands on participation brings people together in new ways, builds on community capacity and strengthens communication among neighbours.

There are two application deadlines annually; March 31 and October 31. Two staff, one from Planning and Operations and one from Stanley District, support the program. They work with a dedicated advisory committee to evaluate the applications. Staff also assist community groups applying to the program in sorting out technical, community and site issues.

Staff report annually on project funding. This report provides information on projects funded in 2001.

## DISCUSSION

The projects submitted for October 31, 2000 were reviewed in February 2001 because of the fall job action. Seven (7) applications were received and six (6) were funded.

- 1) *Hastings Community Park - Spray Park Mosaic Project* **\$2,500**  
The Hastings Community Association was awarded additional monies to complete a Mosaic Bench and a Water Fountain in the spray park.
- 2) *False Creek Jade Fountain II* **\$2,175**  
The False Creek South Neighbourhood Association applied for additional funds to cover the costs of brass fixtures and hand digging of pipe lines. They had previously been given funds to cover other cost of installing the jade boulder as a fountain.
- 3) *Body pArts: A Healthy Art Project* **\$4,000**  
Northeast Community Health Committee members, Collingwood Arts Powwow members worked with residents under the sponsorship of Collingwood Neighbourhood House to create three (3) fabric hangings that emphasize cultural and personal well-being.
- 4) *Windsor Way Street Improvements* **\$5,000**  
This group was sponsored by the Mount Pleasant Community Association to plant boulevard and traffic circle gardens along Windsor from 12th Ave. to 41<sup>st</sup> Ave.
- 5) *Southern Cross Naturalization Project I* **\$1,500**  
Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith Elementary applied to convert an existing school yard/sports field into a naturalized garden with planter boxes, benches, tables and bleachers.
- 6) *Banners on Broadway V* **\$5,000**  
Mount Pleasant Community Centre Association was approved funds to cover costs for banner installation on new poles. These community created banners will run from Woodland to several blocks east of Main Street.

In March 2001, eleven (11) applications were submitted and nine (9) were funded:

- 1) *Rive Gauche Market in Pigeon Park* **\$2,000**  
The Vancouver Economic Development Commission applied to have community residents build the vendor booths to support a neighbourhood market in the Downtown Eastside.
- 2) *South Hill Neighbours/Fraser Street Laneway Improvement* **\$3,500**  
Sunset Community Association sponsored this group of residents who worked to beautify and clean up the lanes adjacent to Fraser Street between 47<sup>rd</sup> and 49<sup>th</sup> Avenues. The plan included benches and plantings.
- 3) *Luna the Moon* **\$4,000**  
Britannia Community Services Centre hosted an Artist in Residence project to carve posts for the new Napier Street Greenway near the entrance to Britannia Centre. This funding added to the project.
- 4) *Southern Cross Naturalization project II* **\$3,500**  
Sir Charles Kingsford Smith Elementary school was funded to build boxes and planters and create murals to naturalize and enhance the school environment.
- 5) *Mountain View Neighbours Street Banners* **\$6,000**  
Neighbours just east of Fraser Street between King Edward and 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue applied under the co-sponsorship of Little Mountain Neighbourhood House to create and install banners along Fraser Street.
- 6) *Lord Kitchener School Entrance Enhancement* **\$4,500**  
The Parent Advisory Council was funded to develop welcoming shelter with an information sign and to enhance a plaza area with a boulder garden.
- 7) *Coal Harbour Community Carving* **\$4,000**  
The West End Community Association sponsored a community carving of three poles to be installed in Harbour Green Park. The NMF supplemented this project.
- 8) *Windsor Way Gateway* **\$3,000**  
Neighbours on Windsor Street between 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue were funded to continue boulevard planting and to place mosaics around traffic circles.
- 9) *Duchess Walkway Mosaic* **\$3,000**  
Collingwood Neighbourhood House applied for funds to build a mosaic walkway in Slocan Park.

At the October 31 deadline, nine (9) applications were received and six (6) were funded:

- |    |   |                 |
|----|---|-----------------|
| 1) | <i>South Hill Neighbours/Fraser Street Laneway Improvements</i>   | <b>\$3,500</b>  |
|    | Sunset Community Centre Association sponsored Phase Two of this laneway greening and beautification project: between 45 <sup>th</sup> and 46 <sup>th</sup> Avenue                       |                 |
| 2) | <i>Grandview School</i>   | <b>\$3,000</b>  |
|    | Grandview School was awarded funds to create a mosaic stream-bed and entrance posts.  |                 |
| 3) | <i>Grandview Community Association</i>  | <b>\$2,000</b>  |
|    | This proposal was to supplement funds for the Artist in Residence program to build an environmental stream sculpture on the south west side of the John Hendry Park                     |                 |
| 4) | <i>Environmental Youth Alliance/Strathcona Gardens</i>  | <b>\$3,500</b>  |
|    | These groups will work together to make a community nursery to supply seeds for and encourage greening in the Downtown Eastside Strathcona residents .                                  |                 |
| 5) | <i>Charles Dickens School</i>   | <b>\$3,000</b>  |
|    | This project proposes to create hand-painted fence ornaments with parents, community members and students working together.   |                 |
| 6) | <i>Evergreen Foundation</i>   | <b>\$6,000</b>  |
|    | Working with the Renfrew Ravine Committee, students from Windermere Secondary and Collingwood Neighbourhood House, this group will make interpretative signage about the ravine plants. |                 |
|    | <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$74,675</b> |

(Note: Total equals more than the usual annual allotment as September 2000 applications were reviewed in 2001 as noted above).

## **SUMMARY**

The Neighbourhood Matching Fund provides support to community initiatives and builds stronger and better connected communities. Since the inception of this program in 1993, seventy three (73) projects have been funded.

Prepared by:  
Stanley District  
Board of Parks & Recreation  
Vancouver, B.C.

### Neighbourhood Matching Fund Advisory Committee

| Name                         | Community   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Members:</b>              |   |
| John Wertschek (Chair)       | Strathcona  |
| Steve Bouchard               | Downtown Eastside   |
| Bob Eberle                   | Kerrisdale  |
| Trude Huebner                | Sunset/Strathcona   |
| Leslie Louie                 | Strathcona  |
| Alix Sales                   | Riley Park  |
| Doug Starink                 | Kitsilano   |
| Commissioner Clarence Hansen | Board Chair   |
| <b>Staff:</b>                |   |
| Susan Gordon                 | Stanley District:<br>Coordinator of Arts & Multiculturalism |
| Dana Walker                  | Planning & Operations Division:<br>Planning Analyst         |