



March 26, 2019

TO: Park Board Chair and Commissioners
FROM: General Manager – Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Neighborhood Matching Fund – 2018 Projects

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Vancouver Park Board receive the summary of eleven (11) Neighbourhood Matching Fund projects approved in 2018, attached as Appendix A

OVERVIEW

The purpose of this report is to provide information regarding the eleven (11) Neighbourhood Matching Fund (NMF) projects approved in 2018, which reflect the expanded program scope to include environmental and local food initiatives.

POLICY / PREVIOUS DECISIONS

[Neighborhood Matching Fund Policy & Procedures](#) (1993): Outlines the eligibility criteria and application process.

[Park Board Arts Policy](#) (2003): Recognizes the arts as an essential element in a vital, creative, and balanced city.

[Neighborhood Matching Fund Advisory Committee Terms of Reference](#) (2015): Outlines the composition, role, and responsibilities of the Committee.

[Local Food Action Plan](#) (2013): Provides an action-focussed, feasible, and creative plan to guide the sustainable local food movement in Vancouver.

[Rewilding Vancouver](#) (2014): Improves and enhances experiences of nature, and to increase understanding and awareness of nature in the city.

[Biodiversity Strategy](#) (2016): Increases the amount and quality of Vancouver's natural areas to support biodiversity and access to nature.

BACKGROUND

The objective of the Neighbourhood Matching Fund is to facilitate community cultural development in Vancouver neighbourhoods and foster community stewardship of park land and other public spaces. The NMF supports a variety of community initiated projects that enhance parks and other public land and facilities with lasting projects that reflect the unique character of the community.

The NMF is not a grant as the Vancouver Charter does not permit the Park Board to issue grants. Community groups are awarded funds for project expenses based on a match of volunteer labour, in-kind donations and other cash support.

Applications to the NMF are adjudicated twice annually by the NMF Advisory Committee, which is comprised of eight community members who represent Vancouver's diverse neighbourhoods (see Appendix B for current members). An appointed Park Board Commissioner liaison also sits on the Committee as a non-voting member. In addition to adjudicating proposed projects, the Committee makes recommendations to staff about the NMF program and reviews completed projects on an annual basis.

Park Board staff act as resources to community groups seeking information before and during their project development, and facilitate community interactions with other Park Board staff as projects are realized. Park Board Planning staff manage financial administration of the program.

DISCUSSION

Historically the NMF focussed on supporting arts & culture projects and was funded through successive Capital Plans (1993-2017), with an annual budget of \$50,000. In 2018, in order to expand the scope of the program to support environmental stewardship and local food initiatives, an additional \$50,000 was made available from the capital budget to support the NMF. While the focus of the NMF remains on creating unique, creative projects that reflect their neighbourhoods and foster community development, this additional funding allowed the Park Board to support a broader range of community projects.

2018 Neighbourhood Matching Fund Projects

In 2018, the NMF Advisory Committee supported eleven arts, local food and environmental stewardship projects across the city with a total \$96,000 in funding awarded. Eight of the projects were approved during the spring intake, with three approved during the fall intake.

Following is an overview of the eleven projects approved in 2018:

1. Belonging With Bees - \$6,650

(Dunbar Community Centre Association)

This project builds on a 2016 pilot project with Hives for Humanity to add a second apiary, increase bee programs (including beekeeping), and install interpretive signage inside and outside of Dunbar Community Centre.

2. Native Plant Demonstration Garden - \$5,000

(Environmental Youth Alliance)

This project engages community residents, including youth, to transform an underutilized space into a native plant demonstration garden supporting biodiversity, building connections, and helping to revitalize Strathcona Community Gardens.

3. Collingwood Permaculture Installation and Community Learning - \$10,000

(Collingwood Neighbourhood House)

This project supported students with free, neighbourhood permaculture design training to create installations in local community gardens and supportive housing facilities in active partnership with community members.

4. Generations of Growth: From Gardens to Community - \$10,000

(Douglas Park Community Association)

This project is building and developing a collaborative, educational food-producing garden within the newly developed Douglas Park CC playground that combines cultural, ecological, and culinary elements to increase community connection and capacity.

5. 360° Video Interpretive Walking Tour of 1907 Riots - \$10,000

(Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Gardens)

This 360° Video Interpretive Walking Tour of the 1907 anti-Asian riot, organized by Vancouver's Asiatic Exclusion League, follows the path taken by the white mob from City Hall to Chinatown and Nihonmachi. Local media artist Henry Tsang collaborates with community members and the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden.

6. DIGS/St. Paul's Observational Beehive Project - \$6,750

(Downtown Intercultural Gardeners Society)

Two observational beehives (hives in which the bees can be seen through plexiglass windows) will be built to broaden the beekeeping program in St Paul's community garden.

7. Roots in the Community: Indigenous Sensory and Pollinator Gardens - \$8,000

(Fresh Roots)

VanTech Secondary School hosts this ½ acre educational farm. The public educational experience will be enhanced with new signage, indigenous plants, a sensory garden, and pollinator habitat.

8. Welcoming Community to the Garden - \$10,000

(Grandview/ḷUuqinak'uuh Elementary School)

Grandview/ḷUuqinak'uuh Elementary School and Fresh Roots are 'Welcoming the Community' to the Garden with the creation of a new sculpture, expanded garden, and signage to share indigenous knowledge and language.

9. Copley Improvement, Expansion and Engagement - \$10,000

(Copley Community Orchard)

Improvements and expansion of an established community garden, as well as expanded efforts and resources for engagement of a wider and more diverse community.

10. RE-SIL(i)ENCE stories - \$10,000

(Collingwood Neighbourhood House)

The RE-SIL(i)ENCE stories banner project is the creative exploration of resilience to examine how narratives of the interpretation of power (or lack thereof) inform a future city of resilience. How do we uncover the silence of our stories - the ones that we leave unsaid, or unrecorded?

11. Sunset Neighbourhood Pollinator Path - \$9,800

(Sunset Community Association)

The path will include pollinator plants in civic green spaces to improve habitat connections for native pollinators, and wayfinding artwork and signage to improve community connections and create a walkable experience.

An expanded summary of the 2018 NMF projects with status updates is attached as Appendix A. Additional information about prior year Neighbourhood Matching Fund projects and other arts-related Park Board projects can be found using the City of Vancouver [ArtsFinder app](#).

NEXT STEPS

To support the continued success of this valuable community program, staff are reviewing the Neighbourhood Matching Fund Policy & Procedures, as well as the Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee, to ensure alignment with current needs, policies, and best practices. Recommendations will be brought forward for the Board's consideration once this review is completed.

CONCLUSION

Over the past 25 years, the Vancouver Park Board has supported 256 projects through the Neighbourhood Matching Fund, which have included weaving projects, Indigenous plant demonstration gardens, pollinator plantings and apiaries, digital storytelling and murals. Project reports and photo documentation demonstrate the success of the program in bringing together diverse members of communities as they collaborate on projects that celebrate the local character of Vancouver neighbourhoods.

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Neighbourhood Matching Fund 2018 Project Summary

SPRING 2018 Approved Projects

Belonging With Bees - \$6,650 (Dunbar Community Centre Association)

This project builds on a 2016 pilot project with Hives for Humanity to add a second apiary, increase bee programs (including beekeeping), and install interpretive signage inside and outside of Dunbar Community Centre.

Project Update (Oct 2018):

- new apiary completed;
- honey extraction occurred at the end of September;
- bees are currently winterized and off-site.
- Hives for Humanity led workshops throughout the spring & summer;
- volunteer beekeepers have been learning & developing their beekeeping skills.



Native Plant Demonstration Garden - \$5,000 (Environmental Youth Alliance)

The project engages community residents, including youth, to transform an underutilized space into a native plant demonstration garden, supporting biodiversity, building connections, and helping to revitalize Strathcona Community Gardens.

Project Update (Nov 2018):

- conducted 3 of the youth volunteer programs, engaging 36 diverse youth from the local neighbourhood;
- 4th youth volunteer program is currently underway with 12 Indigenous youth;
- youth volunteers have designed and prepared the site and completed initial plantings; habitat structures were to be installed by year end;
- Currently working with a youth artist to design the garden signs (part way complete)
- Monthly planning/update meetings held with community members
- Held two educational community workshops engaging local gardeners and other community residents in garden development



Neighbourhood Matching Fund 2018 Project Summary

Collingwood Permaculture Installation and Community Learning - \$10,000 **(Collingwood Neighbourhood House)**

This project supported students with free, neighbourhood permaculture design training to create installations in local community gardens and supportive housing facilities in active partnership with community members.

Project Update - Completed (Oct 2018):

- program consisted of a 72 hour permaculture design certificate course; hands-on stewardship sessions, group design installation projects, and completion of final community celebration project;
- Created community by educating and empowering community members, and re-invigorating greenspaces within community.



Generations of Growth: From Gardens to Community - \$10,000 **(Douglas Park Community Association)**

This project is building and developing a collaborative, educational food-producing garden within the newly developed Douglas Park CC playground that combines cultural, ecological, and culinary elements to increase community connection and capacity.

Project Update (Feb 2019):

- delayed due to playground construction;
- to begin in spring 2019;
- to include integration of workshops and programming that examine pollinators, indigenous plants, garden maintenance, harvesting and use of locally grown food.



Neighbourhood Matching Fund 2018 Project Summary

360 Video Interpretive Walking Tour of 1907 Riots - \$10,000

(Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Gardens)

This 360° Video Interpretive Walking Tour of the 1907 anti-Asian riot organized by Vancouver's Asiatic Exclusion League, follows the path taken by the white mob from City Hall to Chinatown and Nihonmachi. Local media artist Henry Tsang collaborates with community members and the Dr Sun Yet Sen Garden.

Project Update (Oct 2018):

- expected to complete in summer 2019;
- filming timeline adjusted after artist crafted the tour routes;
- tours to be delivered as planned in 2019;
- now planning open calls for community consultations with neighbourhood partners.



DIGS/St. Paul's Observational Beehive Project - \$6,750

(Downtown Intercultural Gardeners Society)

Two observational beehives (hives in which the bees can be seen through plexiglass windows) will broaden the beekeeping program in St Paul's community garden.

Project Update (Nov 2018):

- expected to complete in spring 2019;
- working with SPH on the preliminary parts of the project: where hives will be situated; insurance coverage, and building materials/contractors;
- hive construction to be completed over the winter to be ready for spring.



Neighbourhood Matching Fund 2018 Project Summary

**Roots in the Community: Indigenous Sensory and Pollinator Gardens - \$8,000
(Fresh Roots)**

VanTech Secondary hosts this ½ acre educational farm. The public educational experience will be enhanced with new signage, indigenous plants, a sensory garden, and pollinator habitat.

Project Update (Nov 2018):

- sensory garden has been established;
- growing, and helping youth establish relationships with healthy plants that smell, taste, feel, and make sounds;
- working to build bee hives;
- working with UBC aboriginal education department to help develop signage and showcase stories of what's growing.



**Welcoming Community to the Garden - \$10,000
(Grandview/¿Uuqinak'uuh Elementary School)**

Grandview/¿Uuqinak'uuh Elementary School and Fresh Roots are 'Welcoming the Community' to the Garden with the creation of a new sculpture, expanded garden, and signage to share indigenous knowledge and language.

Project Update (Nov 2018):

- growing community - welcomed new principal to team;
- work closely with Indigenous resources teacher to support food lands education and growing at school;
- working with youth and project artist who is a resident carver and grandfather in the school; developed the design
- next step is to purchase cedar plank to work with the intermediate grades to carve.



Neighbourhood Matching Fund 2018 Project Summary

FALL 2018 Approved Projects

Copley Improvement, Expansion and Engagement - \$10,000 (Copley Community Orchard)

Improvements and expansion of an established community garden, as well as expanded efforts and resources to engagement of a wider and more diverse community.



Project Update (2019):

- team has recently submitted signed agreement, insurance and business license;
- project will get underway in spring 2019.

RE-SIL(i)ENCE stories - \$10,000 (Collingwood Neighbourhood House)

The RE-SIL(i)ENCE stories banner project is the creative exploration of resilience to examine how narratives of the interpretation of power (or lack thereof) inform a future city of resilience. How do we uncover the silence of our stories- the ones that we leave unsaid, or unrecorded?



Project Update (2019):

- given final approval in Dec 2018; welcome package sent in Jan 2019;
- once necessary documents are returned; project can begin spring 2019.

Neighbourhood Matching Fund 2018 Project Summary

Sunset Neighbourhood Pollinator Path - \$9,800 ***(Sunset Community Association)***

The path will include pollinator plants in civic green spaces to improve habitat connections for native pollinators, and wayfinding artwork and signage to improve community connections and create a walkable experience.

Project Update (2019):

- working closely with PB Planning staff to define the scope of this project;
- expected to begin spring 2019;
- next steps include developing a flyer and stickers to define the path route and distribute seeds to community partners.



Neighbourhood Matching Fund Advisory Committee

**NEIGHBOURHOOD MATCHING FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Current Members & Terms**

Sita Kumar (Fall 2015 to Fall 2019)

Sita has resided in Strathcona, Kerrisdale, Commercial Drive, and Mount Pleasant and has worked at over a dozen public library branches in the city. She has extensive experience in programming in arts and culture and relishes working on community building initiatives. From 2008 to 2010 Sita was a board member, president, and program coordinator with the Community Arts Council of Vancouver.

As program coordinator, she oversaw the development of fifteen community arts projects produced by eleven DTES organizations. She has been a curator and event organizer for DTES Small Arts Grants exhibitions and she volunteers at the Vancouver Art Gallery conducting research on public programs. She has also hosted free public patch-making workshops in McLean Park. Sita lives near City Hall and generally travels from point A to point B on her trusted bicycle. She loves swimming and particularly delights in Kitsilano pool.

Elaine Low (Spring 2017 to Spring 2021)

Elaine is a volunteer on the Britannia Arts & Culture Advisory Committee and also works with the Vancouver Folk Festival to ensure that residents on a fixed income can enjoy the festival. She has been an out of school child-care worker since 2007, designing special field trips and programming, while also maintaining the books for her landscaping business! Elaine is a long term resident of the Grandview Woodlands neighbourhood.

Chita Manoranjan (Fall 2017 to Fall 2021)

Chita grew up in the Renfrew-Collingwood Neighbourhood in east Vancouver and continues to call it home. He has been involved in community projects in this neighbourhood including youth programs, community arts, festivals/celebrations, ecological stewardship, and cross-cultural learning initiatives. He is currently working with local community partners to create a neighbourhood-level arts circle to strengthen arts and cultural activity in Renfrew-Collingwood, in addition to implementing recommendations outlined in the Renfrew Collingwood Arts and Culture Infrastructure Plan. He works regularly with the Still Moon Arts Society. Chita's interest in engaging with cross-cultural, inclusive communities has led him to work and volunteer experiences within the City of Vancouver, in the broader Metro Vancouver area, and outside of Canada.

Susan Faehndrich-Findlay (Fall 2017 to Fall 2021)

A founding board member of South Hill Neighbours (a grass roots organization in the Fraser Street area) Susan coordinated the South Hill Festival for 12 years. She was an active member of the South Hill Public Art Committee and has worked closely with the SVNH. Susan developed an interactive website called Inside Stories that encourages people to share their stories and get to know their neighbours. She grew up on the west side of Vancouver and is a long time resident of the South Hill community.

Neighbourhood Matching Fund Advisory Committee

Cyndy Chwelos (Fall 2018 to Fall 2022)

Cyndy Chwelos believes that Art makes a difference. Providing opportunities to experience the arts can be transformative, while making art together can literally, build community. She works to foster this understanding as an instructor in Recreation Studies at Langara, along with 15-years' experience in arts programming, art-making and facilitating public access to making the arts part of everyday life. Cyndy is a practicing artist with a background in early childhood education. She is a longtime resident of Hastings-Sunrise

Shareen Chin (Fall 2018 to Fall 2022)

Shareen Chin is completing her last year in the Masters of Community and Regional Planning program at UBC's School of Community and Regional Planning. She holds an undergraduate degree in Environmental Geography and Certificates in Applied Human Nutrition and Community Economic Development from Simon Fraser University. A long term resident of the West End and Yaletown, Shareen has volunteered, or been employed at the various neighbourhood houses, supporting food security initiatives for local residents. She is also a long-term volunteer with the Vancouver Volunteer Corps. Most recently, she has worked for the First Nations Health Director Association, UBC's Go Global International Student Exchange Office, Katimavik, Diabetes Canada and West Point Grey Community Centre. She is passionate about working with communities and people towards their hopes and goals for a healthy and positive future.

Julia Gellman (Fall 2018 to Fall 2022)

Julia lives in the Fairview neighbourhood, and is the Adult Education and Teaching Garden Coordinator with the VBGA (Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association). She has extensive program management experience in environmental education and engagement. Julia's first connection to NMF was through her previous position as a Project Manager at Evergreen. In this role, she managed Green Bloc Neighbourhoods: a program dedicated to building neighbourhood-level sustainability in Vancouver. Julia has a passion for community development, arts and culture, environmental sustainability, and public space activation. She is looking forward to connecting with the Park Board and empowering Vancouver residents through the Neighbourhood Matching Fund Advisory Committee.

Lori Snyder (Spring 2019 to Spring 2023)

Lori is a descendant from the T'suu tina (Sarcee), Nakota (Assiboine), Cree, Nipissing, Anishinaabe (Ojibwa), Dakota and Powthan people. Her heritage is Metis – a blend of the First Nations people with the Scottish, French and Celtic nations. She was born and raised in Squamish and spent her childhood playing in the forest. From a young age she has been learning about plants and later studied herbalism, aromatherapy and permaculture. Since 2013 Lori has been sharing her First Nations perspective and knowledge of wild, native, edible and medicinal plants to help people reconnect to the wisdom of the Earth. Today Lori works as a First Nations resource person teaching elementary and secondary school children about nutrition, anatomy, gardening and urban foraging through an Indigenous lens. Recent work with other community organizations include: the Aboriginal Youth at Britannia Secondary School, UBC Farm and the Vancouver Park Board at VanDusen Gardens, Riley Park Community Garden, Moberly Arts and Cultural Centre, Sunset Gardening Club, and Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House.