

NO: F008

COUNCIL DATE: April 4, 2011

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## FINANCE COMMITTEE

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **March 29, 2011**

FROM: **General Manager, Finance & Technology**

FILE: **1850-20**

SUBJECT: **Late Grant Applications - 2011**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Finance & Technology Department recommends that the Finance Committee recommend that Council:

1. Approve a “one time” grant of \$1,000 to DiverseCity Community Resources Society for their second annual Cultural Showcase for Seniors; and
2. Approve a “one time” grant of \$1,000 to the Surrey International Writers Conference Society in support of their 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference that will take place from October 21<sup>st</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 at the Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel.

## BACKGROUND

On December 13, 2010, the Finance Committee approved City’s “One Time” Grants for 2011. Since that time, the City has received late grant applications from DiverseCity Community Resources Society, Surrey International Writers’ Conference and the BC High School Bhangra Competition Society. This report describes the applications, discusses an evaluation of the applications in the context of the City’s Policy on City Grants and makes recommendations for Council’s consideration.

## DISCUSSION

The Grants Evaluation Committee has evaluated the above-referenced late grant applications.

The “Policy on City Grants” (D26), indicates that late grant applications will only be considered in instances where the requirement for grant funds was not reasonably foreseeable prior to September 30<sup>th</sup> of the immediately preceding year (i.e., the deadline date by which grant requests are to be submitted to the City for the following year) and if the requirement for funding is critical to the survival of the organization or the event.

The following is a summary of the evaluation of the Grants Committee in relation to each of the referenced late grant applications.

### **DiverseCity Community Resource Society**

DiverseCity Community Resource Society is a non-profit organization that supports the integration of immigrants into Surrey and works towards building a strong, culturally diverse community. DiverseCity Community Resource Society represents the Surrey Seniors' Community Planning Table, which is planning to hold their second annual "Cultural Showcase for Seniors" on June 11, 2011. This event is designed to create an opportunity for seniors to collaborate, celebrate and respect their differences and embrace their similarities. The venue for this event has yet to be determined; however the event is expected to cost \$4,000. DiverseCity Community Resource Society has requested a grant of \$3,000 from the City.

The Grants Evaluation Committee has reviewed this grant application and has determined that this organization provides a benefit to the community by creating an inclusive environment. The Committee recommends that a grant of \$1,000 be awarded to the DiverseCity Community Resource Society for their "Cultural Showcase for Seniors" contingent on the event being held within the City of Surrey.

### **Surrey International Writers' Conference Society**

The Surrey International Writers' Conference Society (SIWC) provides writers at all skill levels an opportunity to improve and refine their skills through professional development. SIWC will be holding their 19<sup>th</sup> annual international conference at the Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel between October 21 and 23, 2011. The event is expected to attract over 700 participants from across North America. SIWC is seeking financial support for this event.

The Grants Evaluation Committee has reviewed this grant application and has determined that this organization provides a benefit to the community by promoting creativity. The Committee recommends that a grant of \$1,000 be awarded to the Surrey International Writers' Conference Society for their 19<sup>th</sup> annual writers' conference.

### **BC High School Bhangra Competition Society**

The BC High School Bhangra Competition Society (BCHBC) is a non-profit society that provides student education awards and scholarships using the funds that are raised through their high school bhangra competitions. BCHBC has submitted a request to the City for financial support for an upcoming BC High School Bhangra Competition. In previous years, this event has been held at the Bell Centre for Performing Arts in Surrey. The 2011 event is being held at the Red Robinson Show Theatre in Coquitlam.

The Grants Evaluation Committee has reviewed this request and finds that it does not meet the grants evaluation criteria as the organization acts as a general fundraiser for, or makes grants to, various other groups or organizations, i.e. student scholarships.

In 2010 Council provided a grant of \$1,500 to the Society from the Council Initiatives Fund in consideration of the benefits (economic and image-related) that would accrue to Surrey as a result of the Competition being held in Surrey. Given that the 2011 event is not being held in Surrey, it is recommended that the City not provide a grant to the Society for the 2011 event. Subject to Council approving the recommendations of this report, staff will advise the Society accordingly.

***Statement of Remaining Funding for Grants:***

Should Council approve the Grants Evaluation Committee recommendations, the remaining balance in the City Grant Budget will be as follows:

Special Recognition Funds	\$2,500
Property Taxes	2,200
High School Dry Grads	1,100
One-time Grants	<u>5,975</u>
	<u>\$ 11,775</u>

Vivienne Wilke, CGA  
General Manager,  
Finance & Technology