

NO: **R193**

COUNCIL DATE: **September 28, 2015**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **September 23, 2015**

FROM: **Crime Reduction Strategy Manager
General Manager, Finance & Technology**

FILE: **1850-20**

SUBJECT: **Funding Request - Sarah McLachlan School of Music**

RECOMMENDATION

The Finance and Technology Department and the City Manager's office recommend that Council approve a funding request of \$15,000 from the Council Initiatives Fund to the Sarah McLachlan School of Music – Surrey program, to be matched by \$15,000 from the Crime Reduction Strategy budget for a total of \$30,000.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to request that Mayor and Council support a funding request from the Council Initiative fund to support the development of the Sarah McLachlan School of Music in Surrey.

BACKGROUND

The Sarah McLachlan School of Music (SoM) provides professional music instruction at no cost, in a safe and nurturing environment, for at-risk and underserved children, youth, and adults. Funded entirely through private donations, students aged 1 to 5, grades 4 through 12, and age 55+ receive high quality music instruction in both contemporary and classical traditions with no previous experience required.

In 2002, SoM launched a pilot project together with Arts Umbrella for 145 students in two partnering schools in Vancouver. The pilot project exceeded all expectations. In 2011 the School was the benefactor of a generous donation of space by the Wolverton Foundation and was incorporated as the Sarah McLachlan School of Music. This permanent home provided for the expansion of their programming within the community. Now with fourteen partnering schools in Vancouver and over 1,100 students, SoM continues to see the tremendous impact music can have on children's lives.

Benefits of the project to its participants include: improved memory and creative expression; confidence and social skill building; essential life skill development such as discipline, self-control, perseverance and patience; engagement in collaborative and self-directed learning;

strengthened language development, math and motor skills and; facilitation of emotional regulation and problem solving.

Operating from September to July, the Vancouver school offers its students diverse opportunities to cultivate healthy relationships, connect and collaborate with others, develop the skills needed to explore their creative potential, and ultimately build the confidence to steer them on a successful course in life.

DISCUSSION

Over the last year, the Sarah McLachlan School of Music has been actively working on the prospect of providing quality music programming to at-risk children and youth in Surrey. Surrey School District staff and Board members have been instrumental in helping SoM find the schools of greatest need where they can have the most impact.

During the last year the Surrey School District determined that the best way for SoM to start in Surrey would be with after-school programs at three elementary schools – Mary Jane Shannon, Forsyth Road and Holly Elementary.

This focused start up effort will provide SoM a chance to better understand Surrey and to develop programming that is specifically relevant to the community. It is anticipated that the SoM will not merely be replicating its Vancouver model for Surrey, but rather would be creating new programs that are developed based on a true reflection of Surrey's needs.

For example, it was determined at one of the schools that programming would be most effective if SoM were to target primary children, allowing their older siblings the freedom to pursue other after school activities instead of having to babysit their younger siblings. This concept and knowledge of the school's specific needs, will allow the program to support more than one child in a specific family.

This projected service delivery model will also provide SoM the opportunity to determine how the music school can work more efficiently with other community partners, allowing for a broader collective reach for as many at-risk children and youth as possible.

The SoM's goal for the funding of this program is to raise \$100,000 for the first year of start-up. This would cover the salary expenses for the music instructors, the administrative staff who will be assigned to the start-up project, and the cost of the equipment for the three schools. In year two, the SoM anticipates the programming costs to remain at \$100,000 and the number of students in the program to double. As the program grows in Surrey, the operating costs will grow at the same rate as the students' numbers.

The SoM is fortunate to receive support from the Sarah McLachlan Foundation that covers its overhead costs. This means that donors in Surrey are funding the program costs of the Surrey program only.

Funding

The School of Music is funded entirely through private donations. Private donations support the direct costs of providing music education - music instruction, instruments and supplies to maintain the year-round attendance needed for the full benefits of music education.

All funds raised that are designated for SoM Surrey, will be used for the programming and equipment costs for Surrey only. Staff is recommending that Council support the SoM with \$15,000 from the Council Initiative fund. **Appendix I** attached to this report provides information on the balance of the Council Initiatives Fund on the assumption that Council will approve the recommendation of this report.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The SoM supports the overall objectives of the City's Sustainability Charter, specifically by creating a safe and secure environment for the City's residents, businesses and visitors. The priorities and objectives outlined in the framework are well aligned with the following Charter action items:

- SC5: Plan for the Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents
- SC17: Crime Reduction Strategy

CONCLUSION

One of the greatest successes at SoM is assisting its students in "finding their voices" through music. The outcome of the program is for students to stay in school, to increase the likelihood of them to succeed in their studies and to ultimately graduate from high school. Over the past two years in Vancouver, the SoM has assisted 79 students to graduate from high school. Of that group, well over 90% have proceeded onto post-secondary education.

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council approve a funding request of \$15,000 from the Council Initiatives Fund to the Sarah McLachlan School of Music – Surrey program in support of the development of the music school being established in Surrey.

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Crime Reduction Strategy Manager

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Appendix I: Council Initiatives Fund



2015 FINANCIAL PLAN COUNCIL INITIATIVES

Description	Amount	Allocation to date	Remaining
Carried Forward from Prior Year	0		
2015 Approved Budget	<u>250,000</u>		\$ 250,000
My Neighbourhood, My futures Initiative (year 3 of 5)		40,000	
Surrey Poet Laureate (Year 1 of 3)		10,000	
2015 Sponsor Appreciation Event		10,000	
SANSU Addictions Education Series		2,400	
Surrey Knights Swim Club		3,000	
2015 CBHA Western Challenge Cup		3,500	
2015 BC Hockey Pee Wee Championship		2,000	
Elleven Management SX Cup 2015		4,000	
Surrey Steps Up: Youth Engagement Campaign		10,000	
Evolution of Communities Forum		10,000	
SASSY Awards 2015		7,500	
15th Women's World Softball Championship		25,000	
Yo-Bro Youth Initiatives Proposal		10,000	
Newton Pop-up Arts Space Project		11,350	
2015 Pulling Together Canoe Journey		5,000	
Canada Cup Field Hockey Event		3,500	
2015 Mayor's Charity Ball		3,500	
Red FM Walk & Run 2015		5,000	
100 Year Journey Gala Sponsorship		5,000	
2015 Water Polo Tournament		5,000	
Sophie's Place Provincial Conference		5,000	
SFU Gala & Diwali		7,500	
Fleetwood BIA		33,500	
Darpan Achievement Awards		5,000	
Seeds Business Awards		3,000	
Sarah McLachlan School of Music (Proposed)		15,000	
Allocations for 2015		\$ 244,750	\$ 5,300