

NO: R140

COUNCIL DATE: June 13, 2016

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **June 9, 2016**

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

FILE: **1850-20**

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

RECOMMENDATION

The Finance and Technology Department recommends that Council approve the following:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Approve a funding request of \$30,000 from the Council Initiatives Fund to the Sarah McLachlan School of Music – Surrey Program, with \$15,000 being reimbursed to the Fund from the Surrey Fire Fighters Charitable Society.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to request that Mayor and Council support a funding request from the Council Initiatives fund to support 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.

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.

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. It was 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 service delivery model provides 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.

DISCUSSION

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 \$30,000 from the Council Initiative fund, with \$15,000 being reimbursed to the City from the Surrey Fire Fighters Charitable Society . 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.

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council approve a funding request of \$30,000 from the Council Initiatives Fund, with \$15,000 being reimbursed from the Surrey Fire Fighters Charitable Society, to the Sarah McLachlan School of Music – Surrey program in support of the development of the music school being established in Surrey.

Vivienne Wilke, CPA, CGA
General Manager,
Finance & Technology

Appendix "I"


 2016 FINANCIAL PLAN
 COUNCIL INITIATIVES

Description	Amount	Allocation to date	Remaining
Carried Forward from Prior Year	2,800		
2016 Proposed Budget	<u>250,000</u>		\$ 252,800
My Neighbourhood, My futures Initiative (year 4 of 5)		40,000	
Surrey Poet Laureate (Year 2 of 3)		10,000	
SFU Surrey Campus Open House		15,000	
City of Surrey Busary		10,000	
Seeds Business Awards		4,000	
PICS Diversity City Sponsorship		5,000	
Bridal Week Vancouver		5,000	
100 Year Journey Gala Sponsorship		6,000	
Pride Festival		5,000	
Seniors Volunteer Project		75,000	
Ethar Trip to Cloverdale Rodeo		2,688	
Whalley Little League (Proposed)		2,000	
Refugee Welcome Event (Proposed)		6,850	
Sarah McLachlan School of Music (Proposed)		30,000	
Sarah McLachlan School of Music (Reimbursement from SFFCS)		-15,000	
Allocations for 2016		<u>\$ 201,538</u>	<u>\$ 51,300</u>