

ITEM NO: 4**SUBJECT: ARTSTART 2009 YOUTH ARTS AND SKILLS FESTIVAL****FILE NO: F04768**

Recommendations:

1. *That the Council receives and notes this report.*
 2. *That the Council affix the Common Seal to the NSW Youth Arts and Skills Festival - ArtStart 2009 Funding Agreement.*
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Report by Group Manager, Community and Corporate:**Introduction**

The Council has received \$36,000 in funding from the NSW Department of Education and Training, for the coordination and support of the 2009 ArtStart NSW Youth Arts and Skills Festival for the Blue Mountains. ArtStart 2009 will be the seventh ArtStart Festival that the Council has coordinated.

The ArtStart 2009 Funding Agreement between TAFE Training and Education Support and the Blue Mountains City Council requires the Blue Mountains City Council seal to be affixed, on the approval of this report and its recommendations.

Objectives of the ArtStart Program

The objectives of the ArtStart program are to:

- Provide an opportunity for young people to become involved in a broad range of arts and cultural activities;
- Promote the development of skills by ensuring that young people are involved in all levels of the ArtStart Program activities;
- Provide opportunities for further education and training through the skills development component of the ArtStart Program;
- Highlight the creative achievements of the Blue Mountains' young people;
- Increase the recognition of young people's talents and skills; and
- Establish structures and stimulate ongoing youth arts and cultural activities in the Blue Mountains by resourcing local activities.

Background

The Department of Education and Training has identified that many young people in NSW, and especially those living in rural and regional areas, could not access a diverse range of arts practice at a high standard. The ArtStart Festival is designed to address this issue, through the delivery of arts workshops, including visual art, music, writing, dance and drama. Young people, particularly those experiencing some form of disadvantage, are encouraged to develop their skills as part of the festival.

Young people are recruited through the Blue Mountains City Council’s Youth Council, high schools and youth organisations, to participate in the ArtStart Young Peoples Advisory Group. This group oversees the delivery of the arts skills workshops and showcase festival.

ArtStart Youth Arts and Skills is a biennial festival. The Blue Mountains City Council has successfully coordinated and delivered the previous six festivals. Each festival has involved approximately 150 active young participants. In addition many more young people enjoy and celebrate the local young people’s art expression, through attending exhibitions and showcases throughout the festival.

ArtStart in the Blue Mountains has been particularly successful in actively supporting the creative development of a young people’s circus. One of the first ArtStart Festivals was responsible for developing “Circo Blurto”, a very successful local young people’s circus troupe . Another Blue Mountains circus troupe “Ruby Bloomers” appeared in the opening event at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney.

ArtStart 2009

In 2009 there will be two different strands to the 2009 Blue Mountains ArtStart Festival. There will be small grants of up to \$2000 available to local arts organisations and youth organisations located across the Mountains. There will also be an opportunity for one or two organisations to apply for a larger grant of up to \$4000 to develop and deliver ArtStart workshops for young people in different locations across the Mountains.

The previous two ArtStart festivals in the Blue Mountains have featured a showcase and exhibition event in September. This has celebrated the work of participants and provided an opportunity for friends and family to view and enjoy the art works. The 2009 festival will be similar to previous years.

Sustainability Assessment (Triple Bottom Line Reporting)

| Effects | Positive | Negative |
|----------------|---|-----------------|
| Environmental | Some of the workshops may combine arts with environmental issues and outcomes. | None |
| Social | Building social capital by engaging disadvantaged youth and increasing skills and education outcomes. | None |
| Economic | Funding input from the Department of Education and Training of \$36,000 to the local economy. | None |

Financial implications for the Council

The Department of Education and Training funding covers the festival’s program costs. The Council’s Corporate Planning and Community Outcomes staff will provide in-kind support. This has been factored into the Council’s Business Planning.

Legal and risk management issues for the Council

There are no legal and risk management implications. All external organisations funded to provide workshops are required to provide insurance and professional risk management documentation.

Conclusion

The Council has been successful in its application to the NSW Department of Training and Education for the ArtStart Youth Arts and Skills Festival 2009. The Council has received a Funding Agreement from the Department of Education and Training, which details the terms and conditions of the grant funding.

It is recommended that the Council affix the Common Seal to the NSW Youth Arts and Skills Festival – ArtStart 2009 Funding Agreement. This will enable the release of \$36,000 in funding for the Blue Mountains ArtStart Festival.

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ITEM NO: 5

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE / DONATIONS – RECOMMENDATIONS BY COUNCILLORS

FILE NO: F02560

Recommendation:

That the council approve the following donations from the Councillors’ Minor Local Projects vote:

| <i>Organisation</i> | <i>Amount</i> |
|---|---------------|
| <i>The Grow Group</i> | <i>\$500</i> |
| <i>Lawson Combined Services Social Club</i> | <i>\$100</i> |
| <i>Blackheath Art Society</i> | <i>\$500</i> |

Report by General Manager:

On 11 July 2000 the Council adopted a revised Policy for Councillors’ Minor Local Projects allocations for the provision of community assistance/donations. The following recommendations for donation, which appear to fall within the ambit of the Policy, have been received and are submitted for approval.

Minor Local Projects

| Recommending Councillor | Organisation | Purpose | Amount |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---------------|
| Clr Clark | The Grow Group | Toward costs associated with running service | \$500 |
| Clr Van der Kley | Lawson Combined Services Social Club | Anzac Day Services at Lawson | \$100 |

Mayoral Contingency Fund

| Recommending Councillor | Organisation | Purpose | Amount |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---|---------------|
| Clr Searle | Blackheath Art Society | 1 st Prize winner of Blackheath Art Society’s Exhibition | \$500 |
