

Item 3.

Grants and Sponsorship - Dixon Street Improvement Grants

File No: S117676

Summary

The City of Sydney's Grants and Sponsorship Program supports initiatives and projects that build the social, cultural, environmental and economic life of the city. To achieve the objectives of the Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision, genuine partnership between government, business and the community is required.

This report covers the following funding program:

- Dixon Street Improvement Grant program

For the Dixon Street Improvement Grants, 4 eligible applications were received. This report recommends a total of 4 grants to a total value of \$180,100 in cash for payment in the 2025/26 financial year.

On 22 August 2022, Council adopted a Grants and Sponsorship Policy. All grants in this report were assessed in accordance with the Grants and Sponsorship Policy, the Grants and Sponsorship Program Guidelines, the priorities set out in Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision and various other relevant City strategies and action plans.

All grant recipients will be required to sign a contract, meet specific performance outcomes and acquit their grant. All figures in this report exclude GST.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the cash recommendations for the Dixon Street Improvement grant program as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council note that all grant amounts are exclusive of GST;
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer agreements with any organisation approved for a grant or sponsorship under terms consistent with this resolution and the Grants and Sponsorship Policy; and
- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to correct minor errors to the matters set out in this report, noting that the identity of the recipient will not change, and a CEO Update will be provided.

Attachments

Attachment A. Recommended for Funding - Dixon Street Improvement Grant Program

Background

1. The City of Sydney's Grants and Sponsorship Program supports residents, businesses and not-for-profit organisations to undertake initiatives and projects that build the social, cultural, environmental and economic life of the city.
2. The Dixon Street Improvement Grant program is open to applications all year round and submissions are assessed on a rolling basis with recommendations made to Council at different points within the year.
3. The Dixon Street Improvement Grant program is open only to eligible properties within a designated area of Dixon Street.
4. A total of 4 eligible applications were received from for-profit organisations through the Dixon Street Improvement Grant program and the following 4 for-profit organisations are recommended in this report:
 - (a) Goon Yee Tong Limited
 - (b) Loong Yee Tong Society Incorporated
 - (c) Magenta Dawn Holdings Pty. Ltd.
 - (d) Sweet Lu Pty Ltd

Grants assessment process

5. The City's Grants and Sponsorship Program is highly competitive. Applications that are not recommended have either not scored as highly against the assessment criteria as the recommended applications or have incomplete or insufficient information. The City's Grants and Sponsorship team provides feedback to unsuccessful applicants.
6. The assessment process includes advice and recommendations from a suitably qualified assessment panel. The applications are scored against defined assessment criteria for each grant program as well as the integrity of the proposed budget, project plan, partnerships, contributions and connection to the local community and industry sectors.
7. The assessment criteria for the Dixon Street Improvement grant program is:
 - Building Improvement - the extent to which the improvements proposed by the applicant are significant enough that they will be easily visible from street level.
 - Design Excellence - the quality of the designs proposed by the applicant and the extent to which these are in line with the heritage and character of Dixon Street.
 - Local Business – the extent to which the proposed works will benefit the business at the property in question and related businesses in the local vicinity.
 - Value for Money - the extent to which the designs, proposed costs and quotes provided will demonstrate sufficient value for money for the City of Sydney.

- City of Sydney funding priorities – your project should consider one of the funding priorities as these are identified areas that need assistance.
8. The assessment meeting for the Dixon Street Improvement Grant program was held on 6 November 2025. All applications were assessed against the relevant publicised assessment criteria. The assessment panels consisted of City staff from City Life and City Design.
 9. Once Council approves recommended applications, a contract is developed which includes conditions that must be adhered to and acquitted against.
 10. It is expected that all successful applicants will work cooperatively with relevant City staff throughout the project for which they have received funding. Applicants are required to match the funding requested with cash.
 11. All grants and sponsorships are recommended on the condition that any required approvals, permits and development consents are obtained by the applicant.

Dixon Street Improvement Grant program

12. The applications recommended for the Dixon Street Improvement Grant program are outlined in Attachment A to this report.
13. The Dixon Street Improvement Grant program budget is set out below:

Total budget for 2025/26	\$400,000
Less: Total cash committed to previously approved applications	\$160,000
Total remaining cash available 2025/26	\$240,000
Number of eligible applications received in current round:	4
Number of grants recommended in current round	4
Cash requested in current round	\$191,100
Cash recommended in current round	\$180,100
Cash remaining 2025/26	\$59,900

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

14. Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision renews the communities' vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2050. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the city, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This grant is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 9 - A transformed and innovative economy - the recommended grant projects in this report contribute to helping stimulate business and promote economic activity. They encourage partnerships with other organisations on business development and assist groups of businesses to work together for the collective benefit.
15. The grants and sponsorships contract management process will involve key staff across the City of Sydney. Identified staff set contract conditions and performance measures for each approved project, and review project acquittals, which include both narrative and financial reports.

Risks

16. This recommendation is within the City's risk appetite, which states:
 - (a) We make decisions that align with our corporate objectives, policies and strategies and are committed to conducting our activities in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations and relevant industry standards.
 - (b) We foster a culture of ethics, integrity and responsible behaviour across our organisation. By creating a strong ethical foundation, we aim to minimise the likelihood of reputation-damaging incidents and enhance our ability to respond effectively when challenges arise.
 - (c) The City has a responsibility to ensure that it has sufficient resources in the short, medium and long term to provide the levels of service that are both affordable and considered appropriate by the community.

Economic

17. The City's Grants and Sponsorship Program provides the City with a platform to support cultural, economic, environmental and social initiatives from the communities and businesses within the local area.

Financial Implications

18. There are sufficient funds allocated in the 2025/26 grants and sponsorship budgets and included in the City's approved operating budgets for 2025/26 to support the recommended grants. Details and total values are provided in the table above.

Relevant Legislation

19. Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 provides that a council may, in accordance with a resolution of the council, contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons for the purpose of exercising its functions
20. Section 356(3)(a) to (d) is satisfied for the purpose of providing grant funding to for profit organisations because:
 - (a) the funding is part of the Dixon Street Improvement Grant program
 - (b) the details of the programs were included in the Council's adopted operational plan for the financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26
 - (c) the program's proposed budget does not exceed 5% of Council's proposed income from ordinary rates for financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26
 - (d) these programs apply to a significant group of persons within the local government area

Critical Dates / Time Frames

21. The funding period is for activities taking place 12 months from the project start date. Contracts will be developed for all successful applications after Council approval to ensure their funding is released in time for project commencement.

Public Consultation

22. On 24 July 2025, the City hosted a Haymarket Information Session that invited members of the Haymarket community to hear about the City's strategic aims for the precinct and information about all related grant programs (including the Dixon Street Improvement Grants). Nearly 50 local business owners and community members attended the session.

EMMA RIGNEY

Executive Director City Life

Jack Caswell, Grants System and Reporting Manager