Item 6.7
At Council
12 May 2025

Relevant Information for Council

FILE:	**S117676**	**DATE:**	9 May 2025
TO:	Lord Mayor and Councillors		
FROM:	Emma Rigney, Executive Director, City Life		
THROUGH:	Monica Barone PSM, Chief Executive Officer		
SUBJECT:	Information Relevant To Item 6.7 – Public Exhibition - Grants and Sponsorship Guidelines		

Alternative Recommendation

It is resolved that:

(A) Council approve for public exhibition the draft Grants and Sponsorship Guidelines, as shown at Attachment A to the subject report, ***subject to the following amendments:***

(i) on page 48, section - Key Dates:

This program is open all year for applications. ~~This program is by invitation only.~~ Please contact our grants team to discuss applying to this category on 02 9265 9333 or email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

(ii) on page 49, section – Application requirements and process

~~Application for this program is by invitation only.~~

We will advise an applicant of the requirements ***when they contact us before applying.*** ~~as part of the invitation.~~

(iii) on page 50, section – Eligibility

These organisations can apply~~, when invited~~:

(iv) section - How to apply:

~~This program is by invitation only.~~

(B) Council note that the Grants and Sponsorship Guidelines, including any recommended changes, will be reported to Council for adoption following the exhibition period; and

(C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make minor editorial amendments for clarity or correction of drafting errors prior to the exhibition of the draft Grants and Sponsorship Guidelines.

Purpose

To provide an Alternative Recommendation that makes requested amendments to the proposed Grants and Sponsorship Guidelines. To provide additional information on, the proposed Major Grants category and clarification of grant eligibility.

Background

A major grants category has been proposed in the draft grants and sponsorship guidelines for 2025/26. This category establishes an amalgamated set of guidelines to support organisations that have a significant impact on the City's strategic pillars and to organisations who have had a history of ongoing funding.

The major grants category provides a clear set of assessment criteria and reporting requirements for organisations that deliver significant recurring major festivals, events, programs or capital works. Applicants would need to have a proven track record, multiple sources of income, a recognised brand, support increased visitation, economic activity and/or investment in Sydney. The applicants would be required to continue to submit applications for funding before the end of their funding agreements and to report on the impact of their funding annually.

New applicants to this category can speak to City staff before applying to this category and if submitting an application it will be assessed against the published criteria. If funding is recommended the budget would need to come from within the existing funding budget. All recommendations for major grants funding, new and returning, would continue to go to Council for approval.

If the guidelines are approved, the following organisations would be moved from their current funding categories to this category with their current allocation:

Organisation	**Current funding category**	**Current annual budget approved**
Access Sydney Community Transport	Community Grants	$207,500
Fact Tree Youth Service	Community Grants	$120,000
Glebe Youth Services	Community Grants	$369,500
Sydney Peace Prize	Community Grants	$50,000
City Recital Hall	Creative Grants	$1,000,000

Organisation	Current funding category	Current annual budget approved
Aboriginal Corporation for Homelessness and Rehabilitation Community services	Community Services/Homelessness	$125,000
Innari Incorporation	Community Services/Homelessness	$125,000
Launchpad Youth Community Inc	Community Services/Homelessness	$350,000
Neami National	Community Services/Homelessness	$800,000
Business Events Sydney	Festivals & Events Tier 2	$300,000
Australian Fashion Week	Festivals & Events Tier 2	$100,000
Gadigal Information Services (YABUN festival)	Festivals & Events Tier 2	$215,000
SXSW Sydney	Festivals & Events Tier 2	$100,000
Sydney Fringe	Festivals & Events Tier 2	$230,000
Sydney Festival	Festivals & Events Tier 2	$1,400,000
Sydney Writers' Festival	Festivals & Events Tier 2	$375,000
Sydney Film Festival	Festivals & Events Tier 2	$270,000
Biennale of Sydney	Festivals & Events Tier 2	$650,000
Australia Day Celebrations	Festivals & Events Tier 2	$150,000
Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras	Festivals & Events Tier 2	$340,000
	Total	**$7,277,000**

Clarification on not-for-profit/for-profit grants eligibility.

Each category of funding provides details on what entities are or are not eligible. This is sometimes complex and an assessment is made at the time of application. The programs listed below are open to for-profit entities and this information will be added to the guidelines prior to exhibition:

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander collaboration fund
- Creative grant
- Dixon Street improvement grant
- Festivals and events sponsorship
- Green building grant
- Haymarket activation grant
- Innovation and ideas grant
- Major grant
- Quick response grant
- Affordable and diverse housing fund
- Accommodation grant
- Creative live/work spaces (individuals)
- Short-term empty properties grant

Memo from Emma Rigney, Executive Director, City Life

Prepared by: Sam Wild, Manager Grants

Approved

P. M. Barone

MONICA BARONE PSM

Chief Executive Officer