

NO: R129

COUNCIL DATE: July 24, 2023

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **July 20, 2023**

FROM: **General Manager, Finance**

FILE: **1850-20**

SUBJECT: **Council Initiatives Funding Request – Anti-Racism Forum and Art Exhibition**

RECOMMENDATION

The Finance Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Approve a sponsorship of \$10,000 from the Council Initiatives Fund towards the Anti-Racism Forum and Art Exhibition taking place on August 15 and September 1, 2023, in Surrey.

INTENT

The City received a sponsorship request from Progressive Inter-Cultural Community Services (“PICS”) for their Anti-Racism Forum and Art Exhibition, to be held in Surrey on August 15 and September 1, 2023.

BACKGROUND

PICS has delivered anti-racism awareness programs in the past few years and has successfully promoted youth empowerment. PICS also conducts annual workshops and art exhibitions for youth to help raise awareness against racism while providing resources to combat it. Based on the multicultural and ever-increasing diverse demographic profile of Surrey, there is a need for additional anti-racism programs.

DISCUSSION

PICS is proposing to host two events – Anti-Racism Forum and Anti-Racism Art Exhibition for creating awareness of racism and inclusivity among the communities, specifically targeting youth.

Anti-Racism Forum

PICS will be conducting an Anti-Racism Forum on August 15, 2023. It will include presentations from guest speakers, group discussions and brainstorming, role-playing, and simulations of real-life scenarios. Guest speakers include representatives from Royal Canadian Mounted Police who will speak to the social and criminal ramifications of consuming, creating, and/or sharing online hate; diversity and inclusion facilitators who will provide guidance on confronting intercultural

challenges and opening difficult discussions about racism and discrimination; and, leaders or community members who can share their stories of overcoming racist or discriminatory barriers to employment, justice, and/or social participation. The Anti-Racism Forum will also serve as a means to survey and interview individuals about their experiences with racism and discrimination.

Anti-Racism Art Exhibition

PICS will be hosting a public Anti-Racism Art Exhibition at a Community Centre in Surrey on September 1, 2023. The art exhibition aims to educate and empower youth and adults to combat racism and discrimination in our society. This event will bring together individuals from diverse backgrounds, including students, educators, community leaders, and activists, to share their experiences, insights, and strategies for combating racism and hate through display of art.

The Anti-Racism Forum and Art Exhibition would benefit Surrey residents by promoting diversity celebration, community engagement, and creating an inclusive and welcoming environment. PICS is requesting that the City consider supporting the two events by providing a combined sponsorship of \$30,000 to offset costs of marketing and promotional material, guest speakers, and facility and equipment rental.

FUNDING

Staff have evaluated the current request to ensure it is compliant with the Council Initiatives Fund Utilization Policy. Staff recommend that Council support the Anti-Racism Forum and Art Exhibition by providing a combined sponsorship of \$10,000 from the Council Initiatives Fund. Appendix "I" attached to this report documents the balance in the Council Initiatives Fund based on an assumption that Council will approve the recommendations of this report.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council approve, from the Council Initiatives Fund, a combined sponsorship of \$10,000 in support of Anti-Racism Forum and Art Exhibition to be held in Surrey on August 15 and September 1, 2023.

Kam Grewal, CMA, CPA
General Manager, Finance

Appendix "I": Council Initiatives – Allocations for 2023


**2023 FINANCIAL PLAN
COUNCIL INITIATIVES**

Description	Amount	Allocation to date	Remaining
Carried Forward from Prior Year	240,000		
2023 Proposed Budget	260,000		\$ 500,000
SFU Share the Vibe Community Mixer		5,000	
The Realistic Success Society		5,000	
Rotary District 5050		10,000	
KidSport BC Surrey Chapter		3,000	
Run Surrey Run		20,000	
Desi-Q Cultural Gala - Sher Vancouver		2,500	
U19 Ukrainian Women's Junior Softball Team		5,000	
RCMP Musical Ride		6,000	
Gone Country, Here for the Cure		10,000	
Surrey Fiesta Extravaganza		10,000	
Anti-Racism Forum & Art Exhibition - PICS (Proposed)		10,000	
Homelessness Services Association of BC - Annual Conference (Proposed)		2,000	
Allocations for 2023		\$ 88,500	\$ 411,500