

Staff Report for Decision

DATE OF MEETING | FEBRUARY 11, 2019 |

AUTHORED BY | JOHN HORN, SOCIAL PLANNER |

SUBJECT NEW HORIZONS FOR SENIORS GRANT

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To obtain Council's endorsement for a collaborative Expression of Interest application to the Human Resources and Skills Development Canada New Horizons for Seniors Program.

Recommendation

That the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council support the City of Nanaimo's participation in a collaborative Expression of Interest application to the Human Resources and Skills Development Canada New Horizons for Seniors Program for the purpose of enhancing social connectivity amongst adults 55 years and older.

BACKGROUND

On 2019-JAN-21, the United Way of Central and Northern Vancouver Island (UWCNVI) submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP). The purpose of the funding is to enhance the social inclusion of seniors. If the submission of the EOI is successful, UWCNVI will be invited to submit a full proposal for consideration by the funders. The City of Nanaimo had partnered previously on a successful application to this funding stream under the 'Seniors Connect' banner, and in 2016, the City received \$168,360 to reduce social isolation in Nanaimo for residents 55 years and older. The partners in the Seniors Connect initiative include Nanaimo Family Life Association, Nanaimo Hospital Foundation, Nanaimo Women's Centre, Healthwell Associates, and Vancouver Island Mental Health Society. That funding supported two programs: City Builders, which focused on investing in age-friendly infrastructure such as bus shelters and crosswalks, and Living History, an oral history project that provides older adults with an opportunity to share true stories drawn from their own lives with a live audience drawn from the general public. The funding provided by HRSDC in that round will end in April of 2019.

Staff would like to continue one aspect of that work: the oral history series, Living History. To date, the series has featured 20 evenings with 72 speakers, and total attendance of more than 1,500 seats filled, comprised of approximately 300 to 400 unique individuals. An advertising flyer for the February 2017 Living History series is attached to this report as Attachment A. Several projects remain in the pipeline for the second component (City Builders) of the current funding: four bus stop shelters and two crosswalks that are expected to complete prior to the expiration of the funding. As other priorities have since arisen, the capacity to continue this component of the original funding is limited.

The UWCNVI has made provision in the EOI for continuation of the oral history series as one aspect of supporting seniors to participate in community life. The EOI identifies a total budget of

\$4,141,758 over a five-year timeframe (2019-2024), of which \$55,000 (\$11,000 per year) has been allocated for the Living History series. Each Living History series (four two-hour evenings) costs approximately \$3,500 to put on (inclusive of payments to a contractor who identifies and schedules the speakers). With a proposed allocation of \$11,000 per year, this funding request, if successful, would support three Living History series per year for five years.

Expenses associated with the series would be covered by the proposed budget and is inclusive of a consultant who is paid to manage the job of identifying and organizing the speakers. Some Staff time would be required on an ongoing basis over the five-year timeframe to attend the speaker series, manage advertising for the series, participate in meetings with our partners in the collaborative, support the volunteer committee that has been developed for this program, and report on expenditures and outcomes to the funder.

OPTIONS

1. That the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council support the City of Nanaimo's participation in a collaborative Expression of Interest application to the Human Resources and Skills Development Canada New Horizons for Seniors Program for the purpose of enhancing social connectivity amongst adults 55 years and older.
 - **Budget Implication:** If the grant application is successful, the 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan will be amended to include \$11,000 per year for five (5) years for the Living History series costs with the grant as the funding source.
 - **Other Implications:** Addresses the issue of social isolation amongst seniors in support of the City of Nanaimo's goal of making Nanaimo an age-friendly community.
2. That Council provide alternative direction.

SUMMARY POINTS

- In 2016, the City of Nanaimo received funding of \$168,360 from the New Horizons for Seniors Program to address the issue of social isolation in seniors.
- One component of that work is an oral history series – Living History – where local seniors tell true stories to a live audience.
- A collaborative EOI has been submitted to the New Horizons for Seniors Program to allow the City to continue the series within the five-year timeframe (2019-2024).

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: Advertising Flyer for Living History Series (February 2017)

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