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MEMORANDUM

TO: HRM Grants Committee
CC: Bruce Fisher, Finance; Elizabeth Taylor, Parks & Recreation (Culture & Events)
FROM: Peta-Jane Temple, Grants, Finance & Asset Management
DATE: August 30, 2018
SUBJECT: **Community Grants Program 2019**

The following proposed changes to the Community Grants Guidebook (funding categories) for next year's program are to address the following:

- a recurring lack of applications to the Neighbourhood Safety category;
- chronic over-subscription to the Recreation & Leisure category;
- a minor revision to the Arts & Crafts category to remove eligibility for project grant (<\$5,000) to professional arts organizations.

Proposed Changes

1. Merge the Neighbourhood Safety category into the Emergency Assistance category. Both focus primarily on public safety.
2. Split the Recreation & Leisure category into two separate categories. The Recreation category will focus on *physical activity/fitness* whereas the Leisure category will focus on *social activity/passive recreation* (community halls, seniors club, hobby clubs, community-owned parks and playgrounds). This should help address demand while recognizing different capacities (financial, physical, location etc).

Typically, leisure-related grants have supported groups that host social meals and dances, private party rentals, games (darts, cards), meetings, passive film/tv/gaming, unstructured/non-competitive recreation/fitness (walking, yoga), fundraising events and small civic holiday celebrations. Some facilities may focus on outdoor activities such as camping, hunting, angling, and atv/snowmobile clubs.

3. With the introduction of a designated program for professional arts organizations the uptake from community arts organizations has increased significantly. Project grants under \$5,000 to professional arts organizations towards the purchase of specialized

equipment have decreased substantially and this type of expenditure might be incorporated into an operating grant or funding under the Canada Council for the Arts.

4. Re-name the Diversity Category to Diversity & Inclusion to reflect grants for accessibility have been assigned to this category. Provide clarification with respect to religious and/or political organizations.

Potential Future Refinement

5. The Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee has requested Planning & Development report on options to increase incentives for the protection of registered heritage properties. The outcome could have implications for the Community Grants Program in terms of capital grants. The History sector is over-subscribed with capital grant requests for heritage property; interpretive and engagement activities do not receive comparable consideration. For example, community-based research, self-publishing, non-recurring exhibitions/hosting etc.