



RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER

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STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENTED: December 17, 2024 **REPORT:** 24-108
FROM: Legislative Services **FILE:** 1850-20-2024
SUBJECT: 2024 COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FINAL REPORT

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

That the recommendation of the General Manager of Corporate Services and Public Safety be endorsed.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council receive Information Report No. 24-108, including Appendix A, regarding the 2024 Community Enrichment Program Final Report and Grant Reporting Forms.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to share how the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) 2024 Community Enrichment Program (CEP) grant recipients used their CEP funds, and to present to Council the Grant Reporting Forms (Reporting Forms) received from each organization.

Information Report Administrative Report (Decision or Direction)

DISCUSSION

Background

The RMOW has provided financial support to local not-for-profit organizations and associations since 2004, when *Council Policy A-7: Community Enrichment Program* (CEP Policy) was adopted. The CEP aims to support public benefit organizations that contribute to the RMOW's growth and development. To qualify for a CEP grant, applicants must operate in one of the following categories: environment; social services; recreation and sport; or arts and culture.

The amount of funding provided to each organization varies, but by policy cannot exceed 50 per cent of the organization's total budget for the year.

The 2024 CEP grants were announced by council at the Regular Council Meeting of April 23, 20204 ([Administrative Report No. 24-044](#)). The allocated CEP grant funds were as follows:

	2024 CEP Recipients	Amount Awarded
1	Whistler Community Services Society	\$25,000.00
2	PearlSpace Support Services Society (Peace Program & Whistler Drop-in Centre)	\$24,000.00
3	Whistler Multicultural Society (Multicultural Community Kitchen & Resilience Whistler)	\$9,000.00
4	Whistler Naturalists (BioBlitz, Fungus Among Us & Bird Studies)	\$8,000.00
5	Whistler Adaptive Sports Program Society	\$7,500.00
6	Whistler Youth Soccer Club	\$6,000.00
7	Association of Whistler Area Residents for the Environment (AWARE)	\$5,500.00
8	Pathways Serious Mental Illness Society	\$5,000.00
9	Sea to Sky Community Services Society	\$5,000.00
10	The Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre of BC	\$5,000.00
11	Whistler Skating Club	\$5,000.00
12	Whistler Sport Legacies Society	\$5,000.00
13	Whistler Blackcomb Freestyle Ski Club	\$4,625.00
14	Whistler Sailing Association	\$4,300.00
15	Sea to Sky Nordics	\$4,000.00
16	The Point Artist-Run Centre Society	\$4,000.00
17	Whistler Farmers Market	\$4,000.00
18	Whistler Nordics Ski Club	\$4,000.00
19	Whistler Mature Action Community (MAC)	\$3,319.00
20	Whistler Gymnastics Club	\$3,060.00
21	The Whistler Writing Society	\$3,000.00
22	Whistler Slo-Pitch Association	\$2,000.00
23	Whistler Sea Wolves Swim Club	\$2,500.00
24	Axemen Rugby Club	\$2,400.00
25	Whistler Mountain Ski Club	\$2,300.00
26	Whistler Chamber Music Society	\$2,000.00
27	Whistler Independent Supported Housing Society	\$2,000.00
28	Whistler Singers Community Choir	\$2,000.00
29	Whistler Valley Quilters' Guild Society	\$2,000.00
30	Zero Ceiling Society of Canada – Work 2 Live Program	\$2,000.00
31	Whistler Field Hockey Club	\$1,700.00
32	Whistler Wolves Rugby League Football Club	\$1,500.00
33	Yoga Buggy	\$1,500.00
34	Whistler Youth Baseball Club	\$1,200.00
35	BC Luge Association	\$1,100.00
	Total	\$170,504.00

Based on the CEP Policy, beneficiaries are required to submit their Reporting Form and required documentation (financial statements and copies of receipts showing how the CEP money was spent) by December 2, 2024. The Reporting Forms are attached to this report as Appendix A. To adhere to the *Freedom of Information and Protection Privacy Act*, some personal information has been redacted.

Two organizations, PearlSpace Support Services Society (previously Howe Sound Women Centre) and Whistler Community Services Society, each received over \$10,000 in CEP grant funding. Therefore, as per the CEP Policy, each are presenting to Council as delegations at the December 17, 2024, Regular Council Meeting. Each organization will outline how their CEP funds were used and will be available to answer any questions Council may have regarding their use of the grant funds, including the benefit for these organizations and the Whistler community.

Analysis

The 2024 CEP recipients have demonstrated a high level of dedication in providing programs and/or services that support and contribute to the growth of the Whistler community. Most organizations utilized their grant funds on equipment, supplies, general operations, advertising or salaries for counsellors and experts.

The CEP beneficiaries expressed gratitude and appreciation for the support provided by RMOW. The recipients emphasized that the grant funds made a significant contribution to the successful implementation of their program’s objectives.

Organizations that haven’t spent the full amount of their awarded grant are listed below. They have documented how and when they will be spending the remaining grant funds. They will each be required to provide additional reporting before the 2025 intake of CEP applications, including receipts to show how the remaining funds have been used.

	Name	Amount Awarded	Amount Unspent	Reasons	Allocation of Unspent Funds
1	Sea to Sky Nordics	\$4,000	\$1,000	Winter based activity	Biathlon program for Lílwat Nation at Mount Currie by February 2025
2	Whistler Slo-Pitch Association	\$2,000	\$402.32	Remaining funds after helmet purchase	More safety equipment, protective masks for pitchers by April 2025
4	Whistler Naturalist – Bird Studies	\$1,000	\$1,000	Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for after the Grant Reporting date	Christmas Bird Count occurred on December 14, 2024
5	Whistler Multicultural Society – Multicultural Community Kitchen	\$5,000	\$265.09	Remaining funds after staff salaries, marketing and supplies	Support Multicultural Outreach Worker for after-school camp by March 31, 2025
6	Whistler Farmers Market	\$4,000	\$2,000	Due to resource challenges	Deferred to First Nation Reconciliation Project to 2025

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Relevant Council Authority/Previous Decisions

The CEP is guided by [Council Policy A-7: Community Enrichment Program](#).

[April 23, 2024, Administrative Report No. 24-044: 2024 CEP Grant Funding Report](#)

2023-2026 Strategic Plan

The 2023-2026 Strategic Plan outlines the high-level direction of the RMOW to help shape community progress during this term of Council. The Strategic Plan contains four priority areas with various associated initiatives that support them. This section identifies how this report links to the Strategic Plan.

Strategic Priorities

Housing

Expedite the delivery of and longer-term planning for employee housing

Climate Action

Mobilize municipal resources toward the implementation of the Big Moves Climate Action Plan

Community Engagement

Strive to connect locals to each other and to the RMOW

Smart Tourism

Preserve and protect Whistler's unique culture, natural assets and infrastructure

Not Applicable

Aligns with core municipal work that falls outside the strategic priorities but improves, maintains, updates and/or protects existing and essential community infrastructure or programs.

Community Vision and Official Community Plan

The Official Community Plan (OCP) is the RMOW's most important guiding document that sets the community vision and long-term community direction. This section identifies how this report applies to the OCP.

The CEP is aligned with Whistler's Vision and OCP. The vision statement highlights that Whistler is "[a] place where our community thrives", and through the CEP process, Council awards funding to not-for-profit organizations and societies that benefit the community and help it grow. Given the broad nature of the sectors in which CEP candidates must operate, this program supports many of the goals, policies and objectives outlined in the OCP.

Chapter 7 "Natural Environment" is about protecting, monitoring and restoring the natural environment in Whistler. Chapter 10 "Climate Action and Energy" speaks to confirming the community's belief that climate change is real, that reducing GHG emissions is beneficial to our broader well-being and that governments should act promptly to mitigate negative impacts of climate change. Both are supported by the CEP funds awarded to non-for-profit organizations falling into the environment category.

Chapter 8 "Health, Safety and Well-being" is about ensuring Whistler has strong community connections and social fabric, is inclusive and affordable, and enjoys high levels of trust, community engagement and good governance. The provision of funding to the organizations within the social and community services categories support the following goals

- Goal 8.1.: Promote, encourage and support initiatives that strengthen the community's sense of place and sense of belonging.

- Goal 8.2.: Promote efforts to enhance the quality of life for all residents and employees.
- Goal 8.3.: Strengthen opportunities for social cohesion and connectedness for residents and visitors.
- Goal 8.4.: Encourage and strengthen a culture of inclusion and diversity.

Part of Chapter 9 “Learning, Culture and Recreation” focuses on recreation and leisure, which include outdoor and indoor recreation and programs. The following goal and objectives are supported by the recreation organizations recipients of the CEP grant:

- Goal 9.6.: Continue to work collaboratively with partner organizations to provide quality recreation and leisure amenities and experiences.
 - Objective 9.6.2: Non-profit third-party recreation service providers thrive, complement resort offerings and contribute to the social well-being of residents and visitors.

Chapter 9 also focuses on “Arts, Nature and Heritage” (ANH) and how to enrich community life and the visitor experience by nurturing this sector. The provision of funding to arts and culture organizations supports the objective below and associated policies:

- Objective 9.2.2: Increase opportunities for education, participation and enjoyment of ANH for residents and visitors.
 - 9.2.2.1 Policy: Support non-profit and private sector efforts to increase opportunities for individuals to learn about and participate in ANH.
 - 9.2.2.2 Policy: Collaborate with the appropriate agencies and stakeholders to showcase local ANH initiatives.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

The RMOW awarded successful applicants a total of \$170,504 in 2024. These funds were included in the 2024-2028 Five-Year Financial Plan.

LÍLWAT NATION & SQUAMISH NATION CONSIDERATIONS

The RMOW is committed to working with the Lílwat People, known in their language as *L'il'wat7úl* and the Squamish People, known in their language as the *Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw* to: create an enduring relationship; establish collaborative processes for Crown land planning; achieve mutual objectives; and enable participation in Whistler's resort economy.

The Whistler Naturalists provided details on how the CEP grant promoted these relationships during the year's programming by presenting classes of the "Fungus Among Us" program at the Xet'ólacw Community School in Mount Currie.

The Whistler Writing Society provided details on how the CEP grant allowed them to invite Jennifer Manuel to mentor 10 local authors. Jennifer is an acclaimed author and a long-time activist in Aboriginal issues and the Founder of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Reading Challenge, an initiative that encourages all Canadians to read the Truth and Reconciliation Report.

The Point Artist-Run Centre Society (PARC) provided details on how the CEP grant allowed them to feature two local Indigenous singer-songwriters in their Sunday Concert Series, Sheri Marie Ptolemy and Archie Peters. PARC does a land acknowledgement at all its events and includes the following on its website and festive programs: “*The Point Artist-Run Centre operates with respect on the unceded*

territories of the Skwxwú7mesh Nation and the Lílwat Nation and is committed to decolonization in its practices.”

Sea to Sky Nordics provided details on how the CEP grant has allowed them to allocate \$1,000 to provide a biathlon program for Lílwat Nation members in Mount Currie scheduled for 2025.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Level of community engagement commitment for this project:

Inform Consult Involve Collaborate Empower

The grant recipients and amounts awarded were announced at the Regular Council Meeting on April 23, 2024 and on the CEP webpage of the whistler.ca website.

Organizations that received \$10,000 or more must write a press release and distribute to local media, post to the organization’s website and on their social media platforms (where applicable) that outlines the CEP funding purpose and acknowledges the RMOW’s contribution and provide copies of the press release to the Legislative Services Department.

REFERENCES

Appendix A – 2024 Community Enrichment Program Grant Reporting Forms

SUMMARY

The report provides the annually required Reporting Forms from all 2024 CEP recipients to demonstrate to Council how the respective CEP grant funds were utilised in each organization’s programming.

SIGN-OFFS

Written by:

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