

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - MARCH 23, 2010

NEW HORIZONS FOR SENIORS PROGRAM – COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP FUNDING GRANT

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Recreation and Culture and Grants Specialist, recommends:

1. That the following be received:
 - Information on the “Creating Arts and Recreational Experiences for Seniors (C.A.R.E.S)” program initiative; and,
 - Cheque presentation in the amount of \$25,000 with respect to the New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP), Community Participation and Leadership Funding (CPLF) Grant.

Contribution to Sustainability

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions, Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan:

- 4.1 To foster a city with strong social cohesion, an engaging arts scene, and a clear sense of its culture and heritage.

Economic Impact

The New Horizons for Seniors Program grant of \$25,000 will offset costs related to operating the “Creating Arts and Recreational Experiences for Seniors (C.A.R.E.S.)” program.

Communications Plan

The Creating Arts and Recreational Experiences for Seniors (C.A.R.E.S) Program will be promoted and communicated via the City website, Recreation Guide, flyers, posters and our community partners.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to receive the presentation and information on the New Horizons for Seniors Program – Community Participation and Leadership Funding Grant of \$25,000 received by the City of Vaughan.

Background - Analysis and Options

The City Vaughan Recreation and Culture Department applied for a grant under the New Horizons for Seniors Program, Community Participation and Leadership Funding and received a \$25,000 grant from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada to support the new City initiative “Creating Arts and Recreational Experiences for Seniors (C.A.R.E.S.)”, a free program designed to engage seniors and encourage them to participate and contribute their creativity, experience and wisdom in support of an environment that will enhance their social well being through creative arts experiences open to all.

Accomplished through a series of free workshops, participants will have the opportunity to complete art projects involving clay, painting, drawing, photography, etc. In turn, the program will support the ongoing involvement of seniors in their communities to reduce the risk of social isolation. Participants will have the opportunity to display artwork at the annual Vaughan of a Kind Craft Show as well as exhibiting finished works throughout Vaughan Public Libraries citywide. The C.A.R.E.S program will also feature a trip to the City Playhouse theatre to attend one of the scheduled performances during the summer months.

The C.A.R.E.S program initiative will support the objectives of the Community Participation and Leadership Funding to encourage seniors to contribute their skills, experience and wisdom in support of social well-being in their communities; and to promote the ongoing involvement of seniors in their communities to reduce the risk of social isolation.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the report will provide:

- STRATEGIC GOAL:
Service Excellence – Providing service excellence to citizens.
- STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:
Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources to implement this program have been allocated and approved.

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

The \$25,000 grant received from the New Horizons for Seniors Program, Community Participation and Leadership Funding will help Vaughan seniors to actively participate in a free arts based program designed to engage seniors and encourage them to participate and contribute their creativity, experience and wisdom in support of an environment that will enhance their social well being through creative arts experiences open to all.

Attachments

None.

Report Prepared By

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Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner of Community Services