COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT GRANT

2019 SURVEY CONSULTATION RESULTS



Report based on aggregate data collected through the Rupert Talks online platform

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

City Council has identified that the City's Community Enhancement Grant policy as it exists presently doesn't provide enough information for them to be able to support new opportunities to fund other groups outside those traditionally funded. For the last number of years the same organizations have been recipients of the available grant funds meaning other groups who have applied have not received funding. In some cases, the organizations that applied did not meet the criteria or Council has faced the difficult alternative prospect of withdrawing funding from one organization in order to give to another, given the limited pool of funds. It was decided that a policy refresh be undertaken in order to provide updated guidance on what the community wants to see supported by public funds.

As part of the process, staff gathered a group of non-profit organizers and community members to evaluate the policies of other municipalities and provide suggestions, and we have now brought this information to the broader population for input. The feedback provided in the following pages will assist us in understanding the community's priorities, and informing the policy staff will recommend to Council so that these priorities are taken into account.

This Report is based on aggregated data and responses collected through the City of Prince Rupert's Rupert Talks program during the week of July 17th-26th, 2019.

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SURVEY SUMMARY

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT GRANT SURVEY

Response Highlights

61 Responses

84%
of respondents agreed with the funding categories developed by the City's focus group:

- Arts/culture
- Recreation
- Community events
- Community programming + spaces

69%
of respondents believe successful applicants should be chosen by a committee instead of Council

41%
of respondents responded 'maybe' to whether they would support a tax increase to fund community groups, 25% said 'yes,' and 34% said 'no'.

38%
of respondents do not believe a voting exhibition/fair event would be a fair way to evaluate whether an organization is deserving of support, 33% believe it would be fair, and 29% believe it may be fair

Of those who favoured a tax increase to support community funding,
47%
would prefer 0.50%

Overall, public space improvement/ tourism promotion and community wide events received the highest ranking of importance from survey participants. However it should be noted all categories were quite close in ranking.

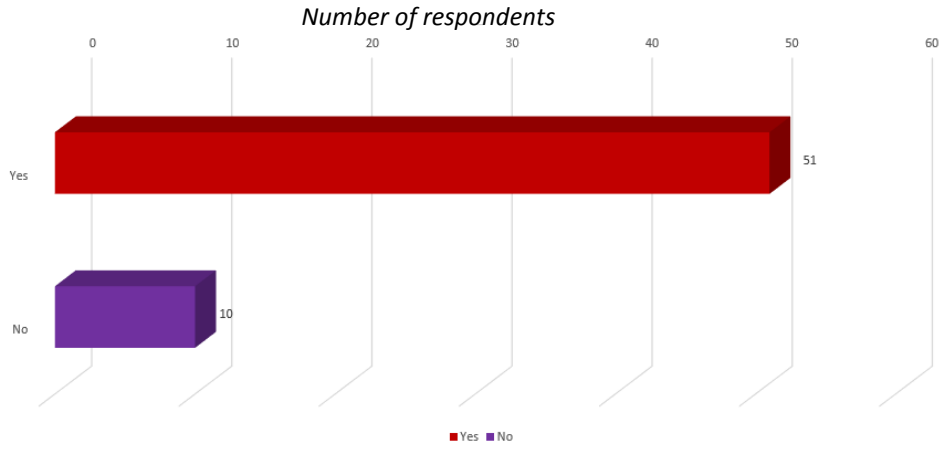
52%
of respondents would be likely to attend afair displaying community organization projects

Written comments from respondents are on pages 6-7, and 11-12 of this report.

See following pages for full survey results

Full Survey Results

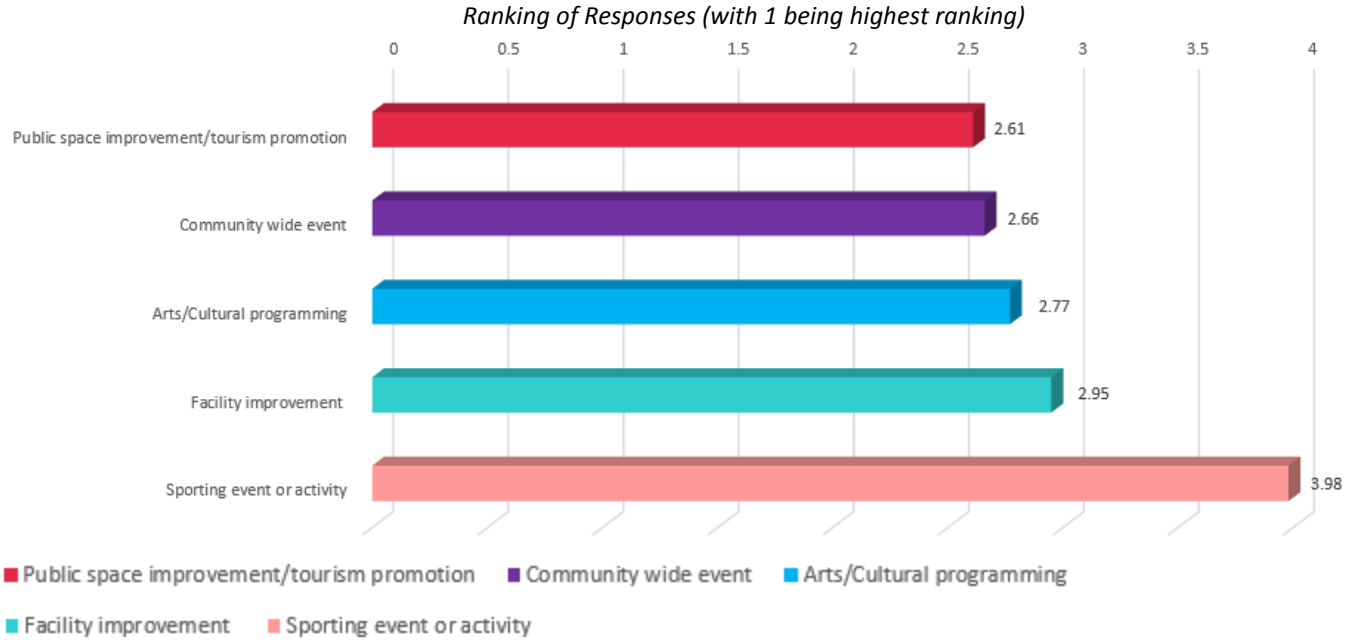
1. Our focus group came up with the categories of arts/culture, recreation, community events, and community programming + spaces. Do these categories capture what you think Council's overall priorities should be for funding of community groups?



Our focus group came up with the categories of arts/culture, recreation, community events, and community programming + spaces. Do these categories capture what you think Council's overall priorities should be for funding of community groups?	
Yes	84%
No	16%

84% of respondents believe the categories listed capture appropriate priorities for Council funding

2. Rank the types of projects you would like to see funded according to priority (with one being top priority)



Overall, public space improvement/tourism promotion and community wide events received the highest ranking from survey participants. However it should be noted all categories were quite close in ranking.

3. Are there additional priorities that Council should have for community grants? (Please note that for legal reasons the City cannot provide direct benefits to individuals or businesses through this program)

Please note—All usernames attached to written responses submitted through Rupert Talks have been removed to protect the anonymity of respondents.

“Equity of services, social determinate of health impacting residents.”
— Rupert Talks User

Investment into kids and youth

a low cost spay/neuter grant partnered with low-cost housing organizations to help reduce the number of unfixed cats in these areas, to help control and reduce the feral and stray cat population that end up downtown near food sources and public locations.

We need a community art rental space

Accessibility for disabled people

equity of services, social determinate of health impacting residents

What about getting rid of all the gross orange colour on the railings. Bugs me that the grass is not cut along second ave . From the bridge up to five corners. Maybe give kids a grant for the summer to clean out lots and places that the city cannot get to

Something really should be done to help the feral cat community. Maybe a bigger TNR program and better access to funding. I'd also like to see some funds go to the wildlife shelter.

Background check on requests, scope of impact. Not necessarily largest amount of people, perhaps deeper roots of support

Will contribute to the overall enjoyment of living here, and will promote our city as an attractive place to work, invest, live and visit.

literacy programs/bookmobile to social housing units/children's reading program.Healthy lifestyle choices: how to cope with stress, mental health programs.

Children/families

Public Service Societies, such as Marine and Ground Search and Rescue

Opportunities for youth, including, but not limited to, travel, service opportunities and conferences

3. Are there additional priorities that Council should have for community grants? (Please note that for legal reasons the City cannot provide direct benefits to individuals or businesses through this program)

“I would like to see Council support grant applications that increase physical activities for healthy living for residents.”
— Rupert Talks User

Funds for sports. Not all can afford to buy the equipment.

Grant writer support fo community groups like NDIT

All Native Basketball Tournament

Profit in relation to costs

I would like to see Council support grant applications that increase physical activities for healthy living for residents.

Education and Training Events

Any person or culture trying to get the gets involve with any activities get them off the streets encourage them it is so hard to find place to help kids ESP. when they are doing it for free

Youth around Prince; is a Prince George youth shelter and daytime hang out, providing day and evening youth activities with an open door policy.

Revitilizing historic WW2 ruins on Mt Hayes/Barrett Rock for toursim and community

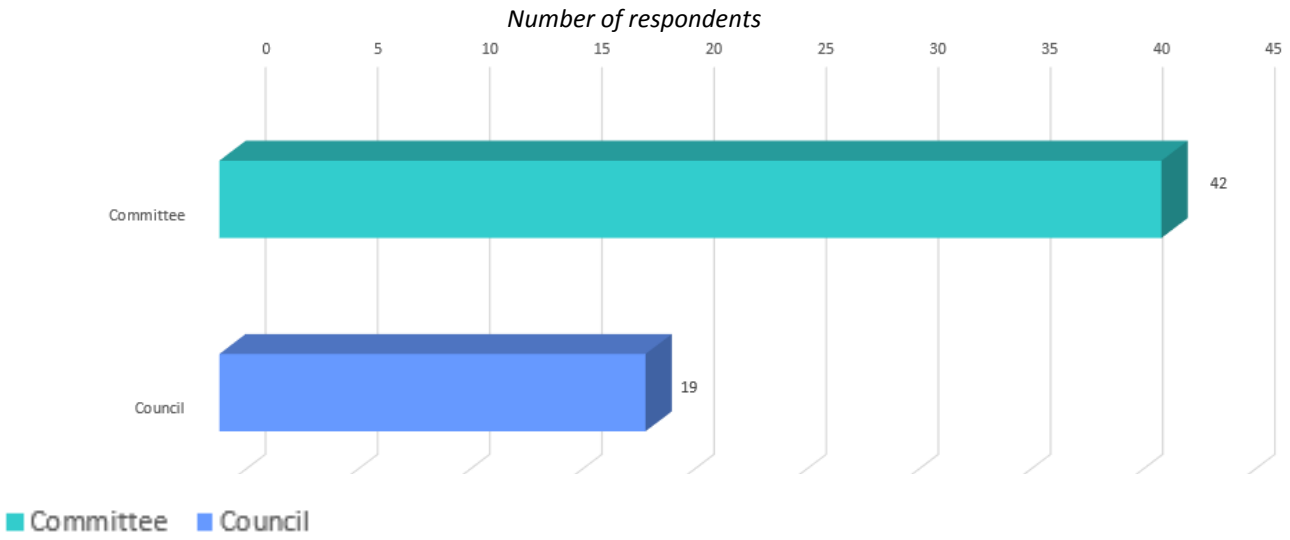
Community Development (social and/or economic)

Upgrades to recreational spaces like skateboard park, bike pump track, tennis courts, playgrounds with covered spaces from rain so can enjoy year round.

I feel Service Clubs should receive grants, their money goes back into the community indirectly, places like the Masonic Hall and the Legion should not have to pay the going rate for property taxes, programs for youth should be high on the list

Literacy/Educational events (outside of the school)

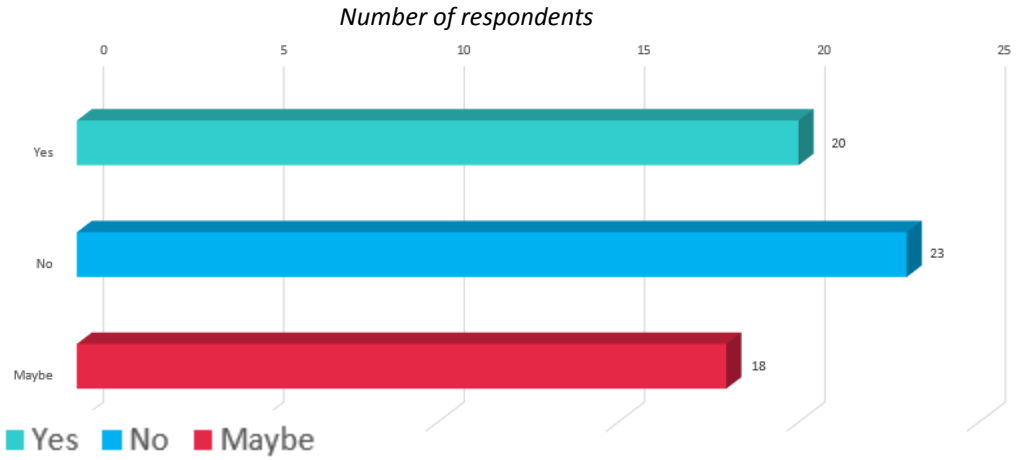
4. Do you think successful applicants for community enhancement grants should be picked by a committee made up of community members or picked by Council? (Choose one.)



69% of respondents believe successful applicants should be chosen by a committee instead of Council

Do you think successful applicants for community enhancement grants should be picked by a committee made up of community members or picked by Council? (Choose one.)	
Committee	42
Council	19

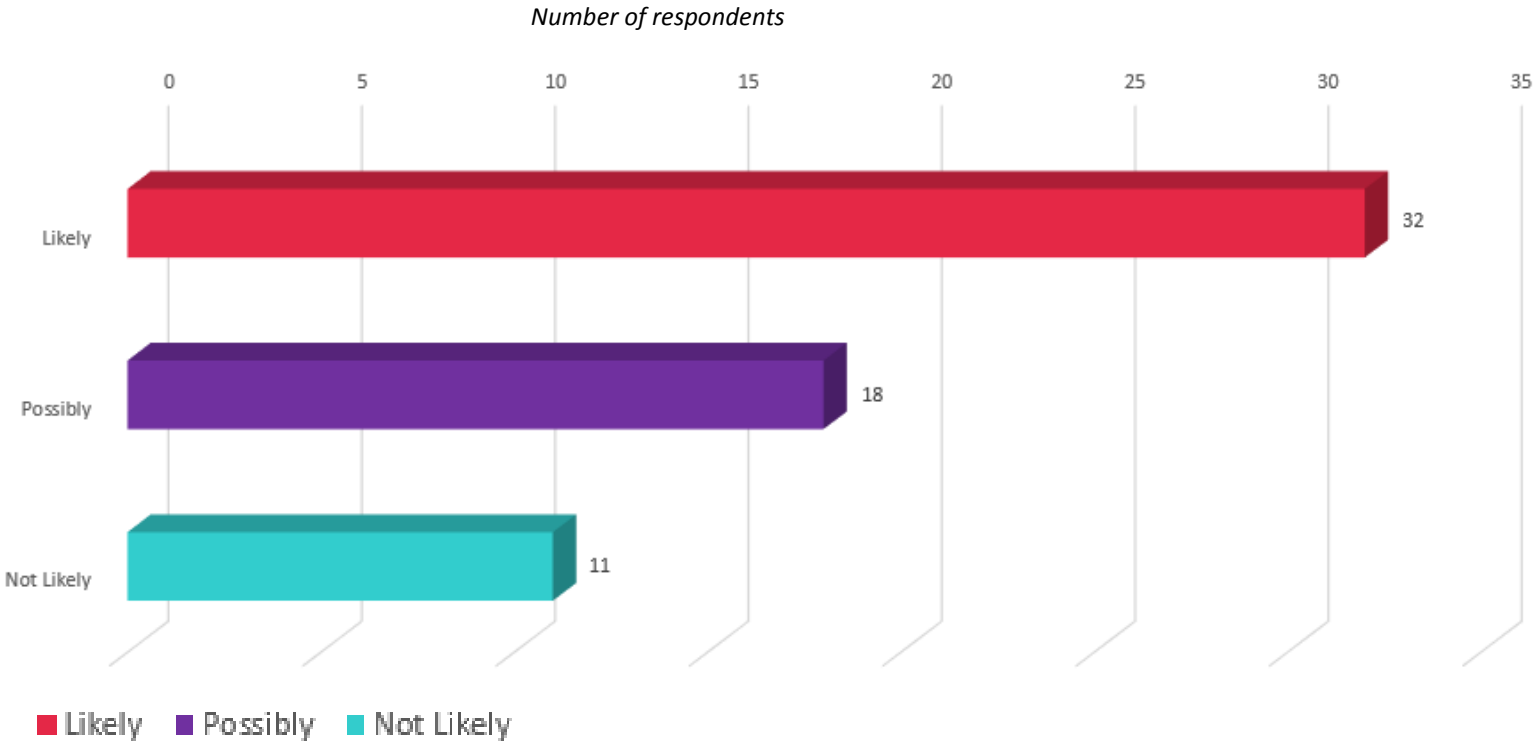
5. As an alternative to committee or Council selection, if the City held a fair every year where community groups showed off their proposed projects to residents and you had the option of casting votes for the projects you support, do you think that's a fair way to evaluate whether groups deserve financial support?



38% of respondents do not believe a voting event would be fair, 33% believe it is fair, and 29% believe it may be fair

As an alternative to committee or Council selection, if the City held a fair every year where community groups showed off their proposed projects to residents and you had the option of casting votes for the projects you support, do you think that's a fair way to evaluate whether groups deserve financial support?	
Yes	20
No	23
Maybe	18

6. Would you attend the above-noted fair displaying community organization projects?

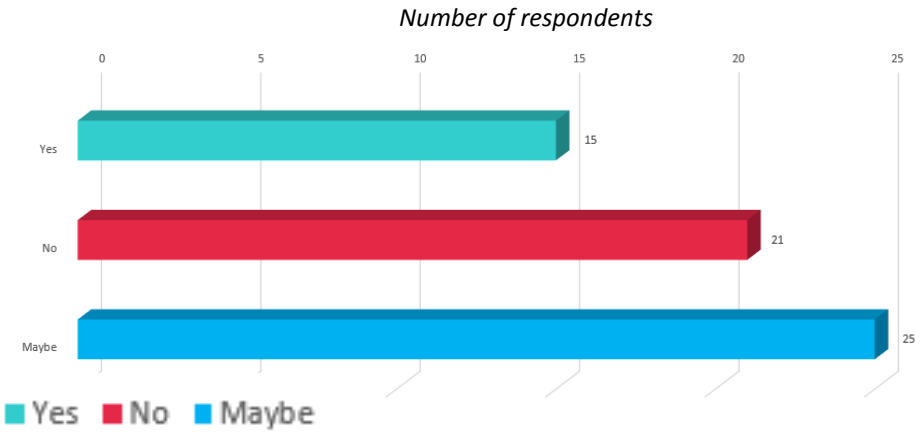


Would you attend the above-noted fair displaying community organization projects?	
Likely	32
Possibly	18
Not Likely	11

52%

of respondents would be likely to attend the previously noted fair displaying community organization projects

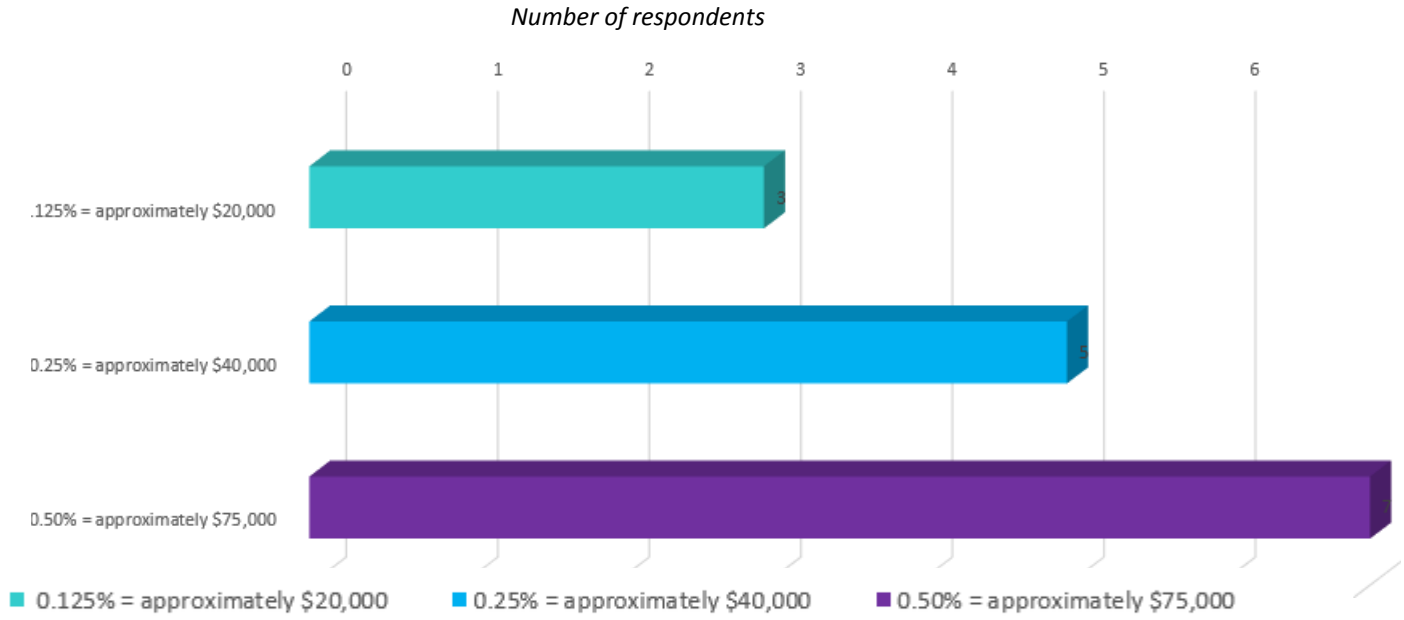
7. Would you support a tax increase to provide additional funding to new community groups through community enhancement grants so that Council could expand and diversify the pool of recipients?



Would you support a tax increase to provide additional funding to new community groups through community enhancement grants so that Council could expand and diversify the pool of recipients?	
Yes	15
No	21
Maybe	25

41% of respondents responded 'maybe' to whether they would support a tax increase to fund community groups, 25% said 'yes,' and 34% said 'no'.

8. If you answered yes, how much of an increase would you prefer?



If you answered yes, how much of an increase would you prefer?	
0.125% = approximately $20,000	3
0.25% = approximately $40,000	5
0.50% = approximately $75,000	7

Of those who favoured a tax increase to support community funding,

47%

would prefer 0.50%

9. Do you have any additional comments on the City's Community Enhancement Grant process?

Please note— All usernames attached to written responses submitted through Rupert Talks have been removed to protect the anonymity of respondents.

"Focus should be on providing programs for the poor/ unemployed in this community, especially children and youth."

— Rupert Talks User

Would like to see more investment into kids and youth in the community.

Rupert has a TNR program, which fixes the feral cats, but a good idea would be to also fix them at the source, which is often the low cost housing areas. You can't keep people from getting a pet, but you can keep the pet from having kittens or puppies.

Connect with design event community wellbeing table work [Redesign Rupert]. Fund strategically to proposals with partnerships that integrate. Infrastructure is a great need with few funding sources.

Everyone on plain level field. No big 5 or preferred groups. Everyone should get a fair chance and previous years should not count.

please ensure a communication and engagement pathway for vulnerable populations I.e. those persons who may not seek out participation, but whose voices still need to be heard. I.e., homeless population, people using substances

It really concerns me when there are suggestions of a possibility of increasing taxes and involving volunteers to make decisions in this process. Mayor and council need to take ownership and responsibility. They are getting paid considerably to do this.

any events that are held within the city should have levy to add to grants - similiar to hotel room tax supporting local tourism.

Focus should be on providing programs for the poo/unemployed in this community, especially children and youth.

Same groups get grants, spread it around

I think there is more than enough spent on city wages to not increase taxes

Societies should provide proof that they benefit the entire community to promote better community connectedness.

9. Do you have any additional comments on the City's Community Enhancement Grant process?

"Funds available should increase as the overall City budget increases; e.g., if it is 1% of the budget, it should stay at 1% of the budget."

— Rupert Talks User

In my opinion in the past the City Council has always been fair in choosing the receipients of grants

In regards to the fair option, casting votes is always going to be a popularity contest, whether one particular group's presentation is better or not. In a small town ... that isn't the way to go, for exactly that reason.

It is important that ALL interest groups have equal access to public funding. Access to public funding may possibly be limited, depending on the applicants access to other funds.

I believe that organizations should not rely on a single particular grant for their yearly funding. There are plenty of opportunities for fundraising and other grants available. I'd like to see more new applications receiving funds from this program.

I think funds for Tourism Prince Rupert and the Golf Club should be reduced and redirected to All Native Tournament. Cut back on 3 employees at Fire Department making $100,000.Redirect $300,000.to free BB Drop In and free swim lessons.

Funds available should increase as the overall City budget increases; e.g., if it is 1% of the budget, it should stay at 1% of the budget.

please help diffrent groups than p[icking the same every year

Evening midnight entertainment; more non alcohol options. Midnight local shopping madness & midnight restaurant meals once a month. Evening fun also for cruse ship &VIArail visitors not just the bars and pubs. I'd work night shifts to support midnight fu

This process should consider programming as equal to projects or events when prioritizing initiatives to fund. Community-based programming such as workshops, school programs, and cross-cultural learning initiatives often struggle to meet funding criteria.

Thank you for asking for community feedback!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Community Enhancement Grant Survey

Information was collected, as per Section 26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act for the purpose of better informing the City's Community Enhancement Grant policy and intake process.

For more details on the information contained in this report, please contact:

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