

8. FIDDLESTYX TOY LIBRARY

General Manager responsible:	General Manager, Stephen McArthur
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek funding for Fiddlestyx Toy Library for shelving costs.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Fiddlestyx Toy Library has been operating for approximately 18 months and caters to the needs of children in the Spencerville, Brooklands, Kainga and Belfast areas.
3. Because of the need to adequately display toys and enable them to have "room-to-move" on Saturday mornings (when they are open) they are in need of mobile shelving.
4. Applications to other funding groups for this project have been unsuccessful (funding applications to pub charities) hence the Toy Library is seeking assistance from the Community Board for funding for this project.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board allocate \$2,395 from the 2005/06 discretionary fund to Fiddlestyx Toy Library for the purchase of mobile shelving units.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the above recommendation be adopted.

BACKGROUND ON FIDDLESTYX TOY LIBRARY

6. Fiddlestyx Toy Library was Incorporated in September 2003 and began operation in early 2004. The Toy Library is open every Saturday morning for 1½ hours and runs entirely on voluntary effort. The Library serves the Spencerville, Brooklands, Kainga area and Belfast and has a total of 30 families presently as members.
7. The Library operates out of a room at the Spencerville Hall. Space in the toy library room is limited, especially during open sessions when families (with young children) are all trying to view the toys. They are able to utilise the adjacent hall, although toys need to be returned to the toy library room at the completion of sessions. Mobile shelving is seen as the best solution to this requirement.
8. The Toy Library holds 4-5 toys for every family that is a member. As families are limited to three toys per two week hire period, this ensures that approximately half the toys are available for display at a time.
9. The Toy Library helps to meet the following outcomes in the LTCCP:
 - A Learning City by helping to provide children with a variety of toys that contribute towards their movement and co-ordination development as well as toys that stimulate their intellectual development.
 - Inclusive Communities by attempting to cater to the needs of children from a variety of backgrounds. The Library is located within a community that has a high number of families with young children. The community is also distant from many services, facilities and amenities.
 - Healthy and Active People by providing a number of toys that encourage children to be active in their play.

FINANCIAL

10. The Toy Library is in need of funding in order to purchase mobile shelving units. Such units would considerably enhance their ability to display toys and have some “room-to-move” on Saturday mornings.
11. The Library has obtained a quote of \$3,395 for the preferred units. The Library is able to put \$1,000 of their own funds towards this project, leaving a balance of \$2,395 to be raised. In making applications for funding, it has been the experience of the Library that, although funding applications for toys have been readily successful, funding applications for this project have not been so successful – they have been declined three times so far.
12. During their first year of operation, their income was \$9,800 (including \$7,500 in grants) with an expenditure of \$2,800. Of the \$7,000 remaining, \$5,500 was spent on toys, and hence their capital available for this project is limited.
13. The 2005 budget for the Toy Library shows an income of \$2,250 (made up of subscriptions of \$750 and toy rentals of \$1,500) and expenditure of \$2,205. These figures do not include any extra income by way of grants or fundraising.

OPTIONS

14. The Board has three options available:
 - (a) Decline a grant to Fiddlestyx Toy Library.
 - (b) Allocate a grant of part of the funds needed to complete this project.
 - (c) Allocate a grant of \$2,395 to Fiddlestyx Toy Library for the purchase of mobile shelving units.

PREFERRED OPTION

15. The Library:

- is located in an area of high numbers of families with young children
- is located in an area that has few facilities, and
- has made several, unsuccessful, attempts to obtain grants from other sources for this project.

For these reasons, Option (c) is preferred.