

16. SOUTHERN OPERA APPLICATION TO THE 2010/11 METROPOLITAN DISCRETIONARY RESPONSE FUND

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Community Services, DDI 941-8607
Officer responsible:	Community Support Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Council to consider an application for funding from the Southern Opera Charitable Trust. The Southern Opera Charitable Trust have applied for \$100,000 from the 2010/11 Metropolitan Discretionary Response Fund.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. In 2010/11, the total pool available for allocation for the Metropolitan Discretionary Response Fund is \$145,057. At the time of writing, there is \$145,057 remaining in the Metropolitan Discretionary Response Fund for 2010/11.
3. The purpose of the Fund is to assist community groups where the project and funding request falls outside other council funding criteria and/or closing dates. This fund is also for emergency funding for unforeseen situations.
4. Applications requesting over \$15,000 require consideration by the Metropolitan Funding Committee. Staff have delegated authority to consider applications up to \$15,000.
5. The application from Southern Opera was originally made to the Metropolitan Strengthening Communities Fund At the Metropolitan Strengthening Communities Fund decision meeting on 5 July 2010, the Metropolitan Funding Committee resolved to consider the application from Southern Opera through the Metropolitan Discretionary Response Fund 2010/11.
6. Attached as **Attachment 1** is detailed information on the application.
7. Staff recommend that the Council make a grant of \$37,500 to the Southern Opera Charitable Trust towards production costs to stage Puccini's opera "Tosca" and Strauss' "Die Fledermaus".

BACKGROUND

Discretionary Response Fund

8. The Council adopted the Strengthening Communities Strategy on 12 July 2007. The Strengthening Communities Grants Funding Programme comprises four funding schemes:
 - (a) Strengthening Communities Fund
 - (b) Small Grants Fund
 - (c) Discretionary Response Fund
 - (d) Community Organisations Loan Scheme.
9. The Discretionary Response Fund opens each year on 1 July and closes on 30 June the following year, or when all funds are expended.
10. For detailed information on the Strengthening Communities Strategy's Outcomes and Priorities please see **Attachment 2**. The specific criteria for the Discretionary Response Fund is also attached, see **Attachment 3**.

Application from Southern Opera

11. The application from Southern Opera was originally made to the Metropolitan Strengthening Communities Fund. However, despite the organisation believing that it had electronically submitted an application, no application from this group was received by Council staff.

12. At the Metropolitan Funding Committee decision meeting on 5 July 2010, this application was discussed by the Committee. However, due to the late arrival of the application and its supporting information, and the short timeframe for a staff to make an assessment, the Committee resolved:

That the Metropolitan Funding Committee declines the application from Southern Opera; and That staff be asked to evaluate the Southern Opera application through the Metropolitan Discretionary Fund.

13. Please see **Attachment 1** for detailed information on this application.
14. Staff have recommended this organisation as Priority 2 and for a grant of \$37,500. While the organisation aligns with the Council's outcomes and contributes to arts in the city, it does not have the reach into the community of other performing arts organisations. In comparison:

Organisation	No. of Paid Attendances	No. of Volunteer Hours	Council Priority	Level of Council Grant (2010/11)
Showbiz	36,000	10,660	Priority 1	\$ 110,000 (SCF)
The Court Theatre	138,000	7,830	Priority 1	\$ 135,000 (SCF)
Christchurch Symphony Orchestra	25,200	2,600	Priority 1	\$ 300,000 (SCF) \$ 61,000 (DRF)
City Choir	8,000	250	Priority 2	\$ 15,000 (SCF)
Southern Opera	9,000	500	Priority 2	\$ 37,500 (DRF)

15. In recommending \$37,500, staff have been consistent in the approach taken with other Priority 2 organisations that applied to the 2010/11 Strengthening Communities Fund. As such, staff have recommended a 25 per cent reduction to Southern Opera's previous year's grant of \$50,000.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

16. None.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

17. Yes, see LTCCP pages 176 and 177 regarding community grants schemes including Board funding.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

18. Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

19. Yes. Strengthening Communities Funding and Community Board Funding, see LTCCP pages 176 and 177 regarding community grants schemes, including Board funding.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

20. Yes. The funding allocation process is covered in the Council's Strengthening Communities Strategy.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

21. Not applicable.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Make a grant of \$37,500 to the Southern Opera Charitable Trust towards production costs to stage Puccini's opera "Tosca" and Strauss' "Die Fledermaus".