

Community Services Report to  
Executive Committee  
2026 May 05

ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
EC2026-0280

## **Council Community Fund Application – Dalhousie Community Association**

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### **PURPOSE**

This report is to request approval of the Council Community Fund application from the Dalhousie Community Association (DCA) to support the Community Hub Project to enhance the space within the group's License of Occupation site on Dallyn Road NW.

### **PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION**

In 2019, Council approved a new fund dedicated to community-driven projects called the Council Community Fund. Background and Previous Council Direction is included in Attachment 1 and the Terms of Reference, updated in 2024, are included in Attachment 2.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Executive Committee recommend that Council:

1. Approve the Council Community Fund application for the Dalhousie Community Association's Community Hub Project as a one-time funding request in the amount of \$300,000; and
2. Direct Administration to report back to the Executive Committee within 12 months of project completion.

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS**

General Manager Katie Black concurs with this report.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- The DCA is applying for \$300,000 from the Council Community Fund for their Community Hub Project (the Project) to add to their current amenities.
- The Project will create a community garden, food forest and gathering space for the residents of Dalhousie, as well as neighbouring communities.
- This application is sponsored by Councillor Kelly, the Ward Councillor for the area, and aligns with the Council Community Fund Terms of Reference.
- With increased density in the neighbourhood, inclusive and accessible public spaces are important to residents.

### **DISCUSSION**

The DCA currently oversees a large multi-use community centre and outdoor spaces on two License of Occupation sites. The space provides Dalhousie residents and surrounding communities with a place to skate, enjoy a successful local farmers market and take part in a variety of community-based programs and events. The DCA offers a broad range of community-based programs, complemented by a robust lineup of special events.

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The proposed community hub includes:

- 47 garden planters including 11 accessible stations
- Additional trees to support the municipal canopy
- A food forest with apple and cherry trees
- A parking area with bike racks
- An accessible walking trail
- A composting area, and
- A pergola and seating area to encourage neighbourhood connection

Planning for these amenities, began in 2023 and once complete, will enable the DCA to host neighbours with educational programs and events to support food security for those in need.

Operating costs would be low and funded through the DCA or other sources, with the DCA responsible for ongoing maintenance and future replacement. The project is not eligible for Capital Conservation Grant funding as a community garden. Anticipated costs include approximately \$200 per year for water to support the garden beds and food forest, with maintenance funding available from multiple sources.

DCA's Council Community Fund application (Attachment 3) is requesting \$300,000 with the remaining funding being raised through other grants and the community association's own funds (Attachment 4).

### EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public engagement was undertaken        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dialogue with interested parties was undertaken |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public/interested parties were informed | <input type="checkbox"/> Public communication or engagement was not required        |

Public engagement has been conducted by the community association through several channels including user and members surveys, regular communication with residents through the DCA website and social media channels, special events and presentations at the annual general meetings in 2023 and 2024. The response has been overwhelmingly positive.

### IMPLICATIONS

#### Social

The Project supports social connections and a sense of belonging by providing shared outdoor amenities that encourage residents of Dalhousie and nearby communities to spend time together in a common space. By expanding access to affordable, healthy activities and completing the third pillar of the food security program, the project improves quality of life by supporting learning, participation, and connection to the land.

A modest public investment with low ongoing costs for a community hub that is expected to be well used.

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### Environmental

The DCA is conscious of the environmental impact of the Project. During construction healthy existing trees will be retained and protected, and additional trees will supplement the tree canopy. The community garden will address community identified needs including green space, education and climate resilience.

### Economic

The community hub will enable the DCA to host educational programs and small-scale events that support neighbour-to-neighbour connections, generate revenue and increase memberships strengthening the organizations financial sustainability As part of the food security program it will help with affordability for residents.

### Service and Financial Implications

### Other: Council Community Fund

The DCA has sought Project support funding through multiple sources, including the provincial government and other funding programs. Attachment 4 outlines the Project budget, including confirmed and anticipated funding sources. The \$300,000 from the Council Community Fund will enable the completion of the Project.

### RISK

If the application is unsuccessful, the DCA would need to secure alternative funding to complete the Project. Delays in funding could require revisions to timelines and may increase costs, potentially delaying the addition of accessible public space for the community and surrounding areas. Without funding, the DCA would also face increased pressure to sustain programs and activities with limited resources, which may affect its ability to respond to growing demand for community-led initiatives that support connection, wellbeing, and use of public spaces.

### ATTACHMENTS

1. Background and Previous Council Direction
2. Council Community Fund Terms of Reference
3. Council Community Fund Application
4. Council Community Fund Application Supporting Documentation
5. Presentation

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Katie Black	Community Services	Approve
Les Tochor	Corporate Planning and Financial Services	Consult
Doug Morgan	Operational Services	Inform

Author: Partnerships