



## HAPPINESS STIMULUS PACKAGE

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, a decision was taken to use funds planned for distribution through the Community Partnerships Program to get the community thinking about how to increase levels of happiness for everyone.

A web page was set up with an interactive ideas wall as a place for the public to share their thoughts and inspirations over a three-week period. Visitors to the page who awarded ideas with an upvote (vote) identified which of the potential concepts for projects fired their imaginations. Activity on the page over the course of the project are shown in the graphics below.

### Here are the ideas people liked:

The mural by Michaela Miller on the sump fence near our home really brightens my mood when I see it. Local artists are really struggling to find work now, but their artwork brings so much happiness to others. The City could invite local artists to create small art installations around our neighbourhoods - on fences, public furniture and the like. (33 votes)

Just an idea but maybe the council could organize an extra pickup of junk. The reason I suggest this is that with all the extra time available at home, residents have had the time to attend to all those jobs they have been putting off. (31 votes)

Would be great to see the city of Melville work with the Child Health nurses in facilitating online mothers/ parenting groups for new parents in the area. This may already be happening, but as soon to be new mum it isn't clear whether facilitation of mothers groups in social distancing formats will continue while COVID19 restrictions are in place. The social support and connections made from these would help new parents connect and establish networks both within this time and beyond. (32 votes)

It is very sad that all the cinemas are closed due to the restrictions. Families and children can only stay home and watch Netflix and YouTube, which won't bring any sense of community. Why don't we do it in the way that people did in those good old days? Driving in cinema is a good idea for bring people together. Each family stays in their car, which provides the insulation for cold weather outside, as well as social distance. It also creates the sense of community. Kids will love it. (20 votes)

Plants!! Get children out in the garden with a free pack of vegetable and flowering seedlings and some native plants - something for me and something for the bees! (18 votes)

Several ideas posted were about live music/entertainment (on flatbed trucks or similar) moving through the suburbs. Others were about fun for everyone, with ideas such as having a bubble machine in the park, food trucks in neighbourhood streets, chalk art competitions, fairy lights and other decorations in front yards.

When reviewing what the community had said after the closing date, we found that some ideas were already happening, about to happen or planned for as part of the City's "business as usual." We added our own posts to the ideas wall to let you know about them and also made the decision to use social media postings to alert you to them over the next few weeks. Examples of ideas that were already in-train included LeisureFit exercise and child health care activities.

Ideas with potential, such as the drive in cinema and music in the neighbourhoods have been referred to staff of cultural services for further investigation.

Four projects created from the community's desire for community arts, supporting local business and gardening were given approval to proceed in the coming weeks and months to the value of \$75,000.

By following this page, you will be able to stay up to date with developments.

Thank you so much for your creativity and inspiration. It has helped everyone to feel happier.

