

## Memo

DATE: 18/08/17

To: Victoria Villaraza, Relationship Manager Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board  
From: Jessica Trask, Local Board Advisor, Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board  
Subject: Urgent request of the Maungakiekie- Tāmaki Local Board for funding from the Community Response Fund

### Purpose

To seek the urgent approval of the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board to grant funding of \$450 to Benji Timu from the Community Response Fund. Mr Timu is a local Tāmaki resident and digital entrepreneur who has been selected as part of a UNESCO sponsored filmmaking programme to help grow the capacity of indigenous filmmakers.

### Reason for the urgency

The Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board received this request with urgency from Benji Timu as Mr Timu needs to confirm he has secured funding which will enable him to participate in the expedition.

Community Grants has advised:

- Mr Timu would normally be considered under the Maungakiekie-Tamaki Local Board's community grant process. However, as the current community grant round has just closed, decision making on this round (due to take place on 26 September) would be too late to enable Mr Timu to participate in the expedition.
- Community grants policy (clause 87) states that funds for travel and accommodation purposes outside Auckland receive a lower prioritisation under the grants policy, however the same policy gives local boards full discretion on their local grants.

The Community Response Fund is a discretionary fund of the Maungakiekie- Tāmaki Local Board to respond to community issues as they arise during the year. The local board considers strategic assessments of proposed initiatives and/or projects, and approves funding for those projects after consideration of their likely benefits.

The application is for a project that will have certain benefits to MTLB areas and has wider Pacific regional benefits. It does align to specific local board priorities of;

- local arts and culture are celebrated and supported;
- strong and thriving communities that are enabled to participate, celebrate and contribute.

### Decision sought from the chair and deputy chair (or any person acting in these roles)

Approval is sought from the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board to grant Benji Timu funding to the amount of \$450 to enable him to participate in the UNESCO sponsored filmmaking expedition.

### Background

Benji Timu is a local digital media artist who has been selected to travel to Te Moananui a Kiwa as part of the 'Through Our Lens' project by Maoriland.

Mr Timu is passionate about storytelling and uses his media and filmmaking skills to produce short films which capture the experience of Tāmaki communities, their relationship with their suburb and their identity.

Mr Timu's social media presence explores Tamaki through his storytelling, providing insight into the complex lived experience of young people in the community. It is envisaged that Mr Timu will grow his leadership skills as a filmmaker through his participation in this programme, with a view to bringing his enhanced filmmaking talents to continue digital storytelling in Tāmaki.

He was recently engaged by the Maungakiekie-Tamaki Local Board during their local board plan process to help facilitate the voices of young people into this process. He, with his collective produced a series of four videos which canvassed the views of young people in Tamaki on key issues. This collaboration facilitated the highest ever participation by young people in any Maungakiekie-Tāmaki local board plan to date.

The Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board wishes to support Mr Timu to further develop his skills, through his participation in this prestigious programme.

The project team will travel to Tahiti, Rarotonga, Samoa and Hawaii in September and October 2017.

Mr Timu will travel to one of these four locations with two coordinators from Maoriland, a chaperone and 2-3 other young people. They anticipate spending 4 to 6 days at each location.

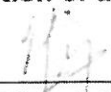
Mr Timu needs to contribute \$450 towards his accommodation and travel. All meals, travel, accommodation and workshop related costs will be covered by this fee.

The board has funding currently available from the Community Response Fund of \$38k in the 17/18 Financial Year.

#### **Implementation**

The Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board directs Sarah Edwards, Arts Advisor, Arts, Culture and Events to facilitate the payment with urgency to allow Benji Timu to participate in the 'Through Our Lens' project a UNESCO sponsored filmmaking expedition.

#### **Authorisation of the urgent decision-making process**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed by Victoria Villaraza  
Relationship Manager, Maungakiekie-Tamaki Local Board

18 August 2017  
Date

#### **Approval to use the urgent decision-making process**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Josephine Bartley  
Chairperson, Maungakiekie-Tamaki Local Board

18 August 2017  
Date

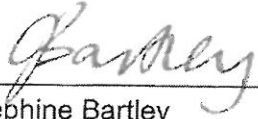
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Don Allan  
Deputy Chairperson, Maungakiekie-Tamaki Local Board

18 August 2017  
Date

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**Maungakiekie-Tamaki Local board Resolution**

- (a) That the Maungakiekie-Tamaki Local Board approve a grant of \$450 from its Community Response Fund to Mr Benji Timu to attend the 'Through Our Lens' project a UNESCO sponsored filmmaking expedition.



Josephine Bartley  
Chairperson, Maungakiekie-Tamaki Local Board

18 August 2017  
Date

x



Don Allan  
Deputy Chairperson, Maungakiekie-Tamaki Local Board

18 August 2017  
Date

