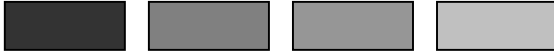




ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



Literature Board

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE
01 October 2005

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL
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THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS EMBARGOED FROM PUBLIC
DISCUSSION UNTIL 20 December 2005



November 2005

This report provides a context to the assessment of applications submitted to the Literature Board on 1 October 2005. It provides some statistical analysis of the results of the grant round and more general comments made by the Board during the assessment of applications.

The Literature Board's Assessment meeting was held on **23-25 November 2005**. Applications were assessed in the Presentation and Promotion, Skills and Arts Development (Organisations) and Key Organisations (Program) categories.

ATTENDANCE

There are currently seven Board members who attended the November meeting, namely:

(Dr) Peter Goldsworthy (Chair) (SA) is a novelist/poet/librettist whose works have been translated into most major European and Asian languages. Among his many literary awards are the 1982 Commonwealth Poetry Prize and the Australian Bicentennial Literary Prize for Poetry (1988). Other major works include the novel *Maestro*, the novella, *Jesus wants me for a sunbeam* and libretti for the Richard Mills operas, *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* and *Batavia* which recently won the Helpmann Award for Best New Australian Work (2002). His most recent novel, *Three Dog Night*, won the 2004 FAW Christina Stead Award and was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award (2004).

(Dr) Ann Galbally (Vic) is an art historian and writer and is a Professorial Associate at the University of Melbourne. She has published monographs on Arthur Streeton, John Peter Russell and Frederick McCubbin, co-edited *Letters from Smike, The Letters of Arthur Streeton* (1989) and written two biographies, *Redmond Barry, An Anglo-Irish Australian* (1995) and *Charles Conder, The last bohemian* (2002) which won The Age Prize for non-fiction in 2003. Interested in public patronage, Ann published *The Collections of the National Gallery of Victoria* in 1987 and co-wrote and co-curated *The First Collections, The Public Library and the National Gallery of Victoria in the 1850s and 1860s* (1992). She has served on the Board of the State Library of Victoria and is now a member of its Readers and Writers Committee.

Alan Gould (ACT) is a poet, novelist and essayist. He has published ten volumes of poetry, the latest of which is *A Fold in the Light* (Indigo), six novels, the latest of which is *The Schoonermaster's Dance* (HarperCollins) and one collection of essays, *The Totem Ship* (Duffy & Snellgrove). He has won a number of awards including the NSW Premier's Literary Award for Poetry in 1981, the National Book Council Award for Fiction in 1992, the Royal Blind Society Talking Book of the Year in 1998, the Philip Hodgins Medal and Prize for services to Australian Literature in 1999 and *The Courier Mail* Book of the Year Award in 2001 for his novel *The Schoonermaster's Dance*. His fiction has been published in Britain, USA, France and the Netherlands. He has also been poetry editor for *The Canberra Times* and the National Library's *Voices* literary magazine.

(Dr) Jack Hibberd (Vic) has written over 30 play, including *A Stretch of the Imagination*, which has been produced in the UK, USA, Germany and China (the Shanghai production in 1987 was the first performance of an Australian play in that country). Dr Hibberd has also written three novels including *Memoirs of an Old Bastard*, and poems published in two volumes, *Les Vins des Amants* and *The Genius of Human Perfection*. He regularly reviews plays and books for the media and practices medicine part-time.

Bronwyn Lea (QLD) was born in Launceston, grew up in Queensland and Papua New Guinea, and lived in California for twelve years. She is the Series Editor, with Martin Duwell, of the annual *Best Australian Poetry* anthology (UQP) and the author of *Flight Animals*, which won the Wesley Michel Wright Prize for Poetry, the Fellowship of Australian Writers Anne



ABOUT THIS REPORT

Elder Award, and was shortlisted for a number of other major prizes. She is currently the Poetry Editor at the University of Queensland Press and lectures in Poetics and Narrative at the University of Queensland.

Sophie Masson (NSW) was born in Jakarta, Indonesia, of French parents and came to Australia with her family at the age of five. Her childhood was spent shuttling between France and Australia, and French and English. She lives near Armidale in northern NSW. Sophie has had more than 35 novels published in Australia, for adults, young adults, and children. Several of her novels have also been published in the UK, USA and Germany, and optioned by film producers. She has been shortlisted many times for several awards. Her YA fantasy, *The Hand of Glory*, was Best Young Adult Novel in the 2002 *Aurealis* Awards for Science Fiction and Fantasy. She also writes frequently for newspapers, journals and magazines in Australia, the UK and the USA. In 2004, two children's novels were published: a fantasy set in 14th century Brittany, *In Hollow Lands* and *Snow, Fire, Sword*, a modern-day fantasy set in the Sultanate of Jayangan, an imaginary country based on Java. This has also been sold to the USA and to Thailand. It is the first of a series of fantasy adventures set in different countries, based on the modern-day Muslim world. She has also sold another major series for children, *Thomas Trew and the Hidden People*, to Hodder UK—the first will appear in 2006.

Glyn Parry (WA) was born where *Billy Elliott* was filmed. When he was twelve, his family escaped to sunshine and surf. While best known as a writer of fiction for children and young adults, his short fiction for adults has also been widely published. His ten novels for children and teenagers include *LA Postcards* (which won the 1995 WA Premier's Prize and was commended in both the Australian Vogel and Children's Book Council Awards), *Monster Man*, *Radical Take-Offs*, *Spooking the Cows*, *Stoked* and *Scooterboy* (which won the 1999 WA Premier's Prize for Young Adult Books). Glyn serves on the State Library Board of WA and the National Advisory Council of the ABC. He is currently writing the memoir of his youth. His dream is to own a cottage by the sea.

For this meeting the Board was assisted by **2 Participating Advisers** –

Julianne Schulz, Editor, Griffith Review
Emma Vuletic, playwright

The following Literature staff attended this meeting:

John Emery	Director
Jill Jones	Program Manager
Nicola Evans	Program Officer
Priscilla Gundelach	Assistant Program Officer
Leighton Elliot	Administrator
Robyn Tooth	Assistant Program Officer
Jane O'Sullivan	Administrative Officer

The following Australia Council staff attended parts of this meeting –
Atul Joshi, Director, Key Organisations
Kevin Golding, Finance and Reporting Analyst, Key Organisations



Once again, the range and diversity of activities supported by the Literature Board is particularly in evidence at this November assessment meeting. Applications for local and international writers' festivals and promotional events are assessed alongside literary magazines, overseas publication of Australian titles including translations into a number of languages, and professional development programs for writers in a number of literary genres.

The meeting was held over three days. Applications from a number of overseas publishers were a highlight of this meeting, in particular the translation of a number of literary titles into languages such as Hungarian, German, Armenian, Russian, Slovene and Chinese. The Board also welcomed applications from publishers taking Australian titles into English speaking markets in both the USA and UK. Expanding the overseas market for Australian literature remains a high priority and the Board continues to encourage the opening up overseas markets in both English-speaking and non-English speaking markets.

Overseas publishers compete for limited funding with emerging and developing Australian literary magazines and this makes for some difficult choices. The Board was pleased to be in a position to fund again *Blue Dog* poetry magazine, which had been a recipient of a foundation grant in 2003 and has raised its circulation over the past two years. The Board was also pleased to fund the magazine *Going Down Swinging* which, although long-established as an outlet for emerging writers and writing practices, had not applied previously for Literature Board funding.

The Board continues to support the major literary festivals along with many smaller, regional festivals. The Board was also pleased to again support two young and emerging writers' festivals – the Newcastle Young Writers' Festival and the Emerging Writers' Festival, both organised by and for young people – and also welcomed the opportunity to support the Overload Poetry Festival, which is establishing itself as an energetic vehicle for performance poetry and emerging poets in Melbourne.

It was also pleased to be able to provide ongoing support to nine established literary magazines which form an essential platform of publication for Australian creative writing in all its vigour and diversity.

On behalf of the Literature Board I would like to congratulate successful applicants and to convey our best wishes to everyone into 2006.

Peter Goldsworthy



OUTCOMES

Program Title	Application (Number)		Success %	Application (Amounts - \$)	
	Received	Approved		Requested	Approved
PROGRAM GRANTS	9	9	100.0%	\$374,000	\$322,000
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PROMOTION)	32	29	90.6%	\$635,619	\$276,837
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PRESENTATION)	27	20	74.1%	\$343,981	\$148,209
SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT - ORGANISATIONS	19	11	57.9%	\$497,150	\$167,500
Total	87	69		\$1,850,750	\$914,546



General. Overall, the Board was pleased with the quality of applications to this grant round. As ever, the challenge at the meeting was to spread the available funds as widely and equitably as possible across the broad range of activities this grant round encompassed.

- Unfortunately, a number of applications which scored highly against the selection criteria were unable to be supported due to the budget constraints.
- In some cases, smaller than requested grants were awarded. In reaching their decisions about awarding lesser amounts, the Board took into account the applicant's scores against the selection criteria and the relative scale of proposed projects.
- The Board was especially pleased to support well-thought out and quality activities for professional skills development.
- **Schools festivals** The Board was pleased to note that a number of applications for schools-based writers' festivals addressed its previous concerns about increasing access and outreach to disadvantaged children and regional areas of need.

• **Literary festivals** The Board reiterated its preference for festivals that provide opportunities for more robust critical debate and place a greater focus on attracting younger audiences as well as including more young and emerging writers in their programs.

• **Organisations** The Board recognises that there are great discrepancies in regional needs in Australia, based on distance as well as access to and cost of travel. It also notes specific professional development needs within the various writing genres. It attempted the difficult task of balancing these needs when assessing applicants to the Skills and Arts Development (Organisations) category.

• **Overseas promotions** The Board considers its support of the promotion of Australian writers as an important aspect of its programs and the quality of many applications was high this year.

• **Literary magazines** The Board continues to recognise the importance of literary journals and magazines as both a contribution to the development of Australian literature and as offering the initial way for many writers to gain publication and recognition.



LITERATURE BOARD PARTNERSHIPS AND INITIATIVES

The Board is actively pursuing several initiatives and collaborative projects which advance current priorities. They include: initiatives for young and emerging writers through the Young and Emerging Writers' Initiative and Write in Your Face.

Young and Emerging Writers 2006

The Board is again offering two separate initiatives in 2006.

The **Young and Emerging Writers Initiative** is offered by invitation to organisations providing mentorships for young and emerging writers. The initiative encourages mentorships for young writers.

The **Write in Your Face** initiative is for young writers 30 years and younger who are working either individually or collaboratively. It is aimed at one-off projects which do not currently fit within the Board's eligibility guidelines for grant applications. The Board is interested in fostering young writers' engagement with the creative process in innovative ways.

The closing date for submissions was 9 December 2005 and proposals will be assessed by the Literature Board in early 2006.

Export skills training for publishers

The development of international readerships for Australian literature remains a priority for the Board in 2005. The Board is currently developing, training in export and marketing skills for smaller publishers in conjunction with the Australian Publishers' Association.

Residential Editorial Program (REP)

In partnership with the Australian Publishers Association and the Australian publishing industry, the Board is holding the 4th biennial Residential Editorial Program at Varuna–The Writers' House, 29 May-3 June 2006. The REP aims to identify and develop professional skills of good editors, raise their profile in the literary community, and enhance their abilities to foster literary talent while working within their publisher's business expectations.

Key Organisations summit

The Council's new Key Organisations section, in partnership with the Literature Board, has organised a summit of Literature's triennially-funded organisations to meet in Hobart 11-14 December 2005.

The aim of this gathering is to encourage these organisations to assess their roles, both individually and as part of an Australia-wide network of organisations; to undertake strategic planning, in particular, developing goals for the literature sector; and to explore business development and fund raising issues.



STEPS IN THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

BEFORE THE MEETING

Staff check eligibility and register applications on Council's computer database. You will receive a letter acknowledging your application with an application number and staff contact for your reference. Staff analyse the statistical information provided by applicants to help Council measure the effectiveness of its grant programs. Staff prepare applications and support material for the Board assessment meeting. Applications are made into booklets and sent to Board members. Peers are invited to participate as advisers to the Board at the meeting bringing additional expertise and perspectives to the assessment process. Staff also check and manage any conflicts of interest that Board members and peers have with applications and study the applications in order to provide information to the Board as required (see below *).

AT THE MEETING

ASSESSMENT

Board members assess your application against the published selection criteria. Board members may examine support material at the meeting or by prior arrangement.

Board members may also take into account information from other sources such as:

- their attendance at performances and other events;
- reports from members of the Register of Peers who may be asked to provide formal assessments of designated works;
- reviews, videos and recordings, referee reports and other material;
- any previous Australia Council grant acquittal reports and performance agreements you may have had; and
- communication with State and Territory agencies.

Boards may decide not to fund the application at the level requested. While your application may meet the stated selection criteria, this does not guarantee you a grant. The Australia Council receives many more applications than it can support. The success of your application must rest ultimately on the merits of your proposal against published criteria and in competition with all the other applications considered for funding.

NOTIFICATION OF DECISION

All applicants will be notified of the Board's decision by mail during the month indicated in the Handbook and the application forms. Information about grant decisions will not be released over the phone.

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL

If your application is successful, you will receive a letter of agreement offering you a grant. This letter outlines the terms and conditions of the offer. Payment of a grant will not be made until you have accepted the conditions by signing and returning the letter of agreement.

ACQUITTAL OF GRANTS

Acquittals are the artistic and financial reports that you must provide after completing your project. Acquittal reports enable the Council to fulfil its obligations of accountability as well as allowing us to learn about the success or otherwise of your project. These reports are a valuable way for you to contribute to the policy development work at the Australia Council.

**Staff do not make funding decisions. Staff provide information and advice to Council, Boards and advisory bodies to assist their determination of policy and assessment of grant applications. Staff also provide information to potential grant applicants and administer the Australia Council's grant programs to enable a simple, fair and efficient assessment of applications.*



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
 PROGRAM GRANTS
 Round Id: 14656 Closing Date: 01-OCT-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Australian Book Review Inc	Publication of ten issues of Australian Book Review in 2006	VIC	\$95,000.00
English Association Sydney Inc	Publication of three issues of Southerly in 2006	NSW	\$20,000.00
Express Media Inc	Publication and promotion of Voiceworks in 2006	VIC	\$18,000.00
Giramondo Publishing Company Pty Ltd	Publication of three issues of Heat in 2006	NSW	\$40,000.00
Hecate Press Pty Ltd	Publication of three issues of Hecate in 2006	QLD	\$6,500.00
Island Magazine Incorporated	Publication of four issues of Island in 2006	TAS	\$27,500.00
Meanjin Company Limited - University of Melbourne	Publication of four issues of Meanjin in 2006	VIC	\$35,000.00
Overland Magazine	Publication of four issues of Overland in 2006 and public lectures series	VIC	\$50,000.00
Quadrant Magazine Co Inc	Payments to literary contributors published in Quadrant in 2006	NSW	\$30,000.00
Grants this Round: 9		Amount Approved:	\$322,000.00



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
 PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PRESENTATION)
 Round Id: 14657 Closing Date: 01-OCT-2005

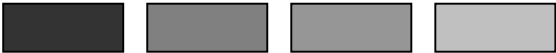
Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
American Association of Australian Literary Studies	Publication of Antipodes in 2006	MO	\$4,000.00
Angelo Loukakis Pty Limited	Towards fees for contributors published in the Australian Author in 2006	NSW	\$10,000.00
Boydell & Brewer Inc.	To publish a companion to 20th Century Australian Literature by international scholars and writers	NEW	\$4,000.00
Cicero Konyvstudio Kft	Publication of 'Looking for Alibrandi' by Melina Marchetta (Hungarian)		\$9,909.00
Cordite Press Inc	Publication of Cordite in 2006	VIC	\$6,000.00
Cultural Institution 'Blesok'	Publication of 'Selected Stories' by Thomas Shapcott (Macedonian)		\$10,000.00
Edition Nautilus	Publication of 'Dreams of Speaking' by Gail Jones (German)		\$7,000.00
Editions Heloise d'Ormesson	Publication of 'Candy' by Luke Davies (French)		\$10,000.00
Editions Robert Laffont	Publication of 'Three Dollars' by Elliot Perlman (French)	CEDEX	\$5,000.00
Going Down Swinging Inc	Publication of Going Down Swinging in 2006	VIC	\$7,000.00
Guitank A	Publication of 'Gould's Book of Fish' by Richard Flanagan (Armenian)		\$5,000.00
Hades Publications Inc	Publication of 'Hydrogen Steel' by K.A Bedford		\$4,000.00
Houtekiet N.V Book Publishers	Publication of 'Saving Francesca' by Melina Marchetta (Dutch)		\$4,480.00
Jiangsu Literature and Arts Publishing House	'Selected Poems' by Kevin Hart (Chinese)		\$7,000.00
Lansman Editeur	Publication of 'Coup d'Etat' by Justin Fleming (French)		\$10,000.00
MISH Janez Mis s.p. Publishing House	'The Riders' by Tim Winton & 'Anthology of Australian Short Stories' by various writers (Slovene)		\$15,520.00
Poetry Australia Foundation Inc	Publication of Blue Dog in 2006	VIC	\$9,600.00



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PRESENTATION)
Round Id: 14657 Closing Date: 01-OCT-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Reading Time	Publication of Reading Time in 2006	NSW	\$10,000.00
Ripol Classic Publishing House	Translation costs for the publication of "Taming the Beast by Emily Maguire(Russian)		\$5,700.00
Shearsman Books Limited	Publication of 'Anything the landlord touches' by Emma Lew (UK publication)		\$4,000.00
Grants this Round: 20		Amount Approved:	\$148,209.00



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PROMOTION)
Round Id: 14658 Closing Date: 01-OCT-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
7th International Women Playwrights Conference	Towards expenses for one Australian playwright to attend the 7th International Women Playwrights' Conference in Indonesia		\$4,450.00
ACT Writers Centre Inc	Towards expenses for Australian writers to participate in the 2006 Canberra Readers & Writers Festival	ACT	\$7,500.00
Bloomsbury Publishing	Towards travel expenses only for Josiane Behmoiras to promote the UK edition of her memoir, Dora B		\$1,900.00
Children's Book Council of Australia (Executive Branch)	Towards expenses for Australian writers and illustrators to participate in the 8th National Conference of the CBCA	NSW	\$15,000.00
Emerging Writers' Festival	Towards expenses for Australian writers to participate in the 2006 Emerging Writers' Festival	VIC	\$5,000.00
Fantastic Queensland Inc	Towards expenses for seven Australian writers to participate in the National Speculative Fiction Festival and Convention	QLD	\$5,650.00
Festival Franco-Anglais De Poesie	Towards expenses for Sarah Day to participate in the 2006 Festival franco-anglais de poesie		\$5,000.00
Flood Editions NFP	Towards travel expenses for Robert Adamson to undertake a reading tour of the US in March/April 2006		\$2,800.00
Harrogate International Festival	Travel expenses only for Shane Maloney to participate in 2006 Harrogate Crime Writing Festival		\$2,489.00
Hong Kong International Literary Festival Ltd	Towards expenses for Doris Pilkington to participate in the 2006 Hong Kong International Literary Festival		\$3,065.00
International Readings at Harbourfront	Towards expenses for Australian writers to participate in the 2006 International Reading Series & Festival of Authors		\$2,000.00
Kununurra Community Library	Towards fees only for Australian writers to participate in the 2006 Kimberley Writers' Festival	WA	\$6,065.00
Lutheran Church of Aust QLD District	Towards expenses for Australian writers to participate in Voices on the Coast, A Youth Literature Festival	QLD	\$5,000.00
Mildura Wentworth Arts Festival Incorporated	Towards expenses for Australian writers to participate in the 2006 Mildura Writers' Festival	VIC	\$15,000.00



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PROMOTION)
Round Id: 14658 Closing Date: 01-OCT-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
New Zealand Book Council	Towards expenses for four Australian writers to participate in 2006 International Writers' Programme	NEW	\$6,068.00
Northern Rivers Writers' Centre	Towards expenses for Australian writers to participate in the 2006 Byron Bay Writers' Festival	NSW	\$22,000.00
Octapod Association Inc	Towards expenses for Australian writers to participate in the 2006 National Young Writers' Festival	NSW	\$20,000.00
Overload Poetry Inc	Towards expenses for Australian poets to participate in the 2006 Overload Poetry Festival	VIC	\$5,000.00
Perth International Arts Festival (t/u University of WA)	Towards expenses for Australian writers to participate in the 2006 Words & Ideas program of PIAF	WA	\$15,000.00
Poets Union Incorporated-NSW	Towards expenses for Australian poets to participate in the 2006 Australian Poetry Festival	NSW	\$15,000.00
Radio Adelaide (t/u University of Adelaide)	Towards writers' and producer's fees for the 2006 series of Writers' Radio	SA	\$7,500.00
Somerset College LTD	Towards fees only for Australian writers to participate in the 2006 Somerset Celebration of Literature	QLD	\$5,000.00
State Library of Victoria	Towards costs for Australian writers participating in the 2006 program of the Centre for Youth Literature	VIC	\$32,000.00
Sydney Writers' Festival Ltd	Towards fares, fees and expenses for Australian writers participating in 2006 SWF	NSW	\$25,000.00
The Big Book Club Inc	Towards expenses for six Australian writers to participate in Big Book Club events in South Australia	SA	\$10,000.00
The Red Room Company Ltd	Towards expenses for creating and promoting new Australian poetry online, via radio and live performance	NSW	\$7,500.00
Whitsunday Anglican School Limited	Towards fees for writers participating in Whitsunday Voices 2006 - a Youth Literature Festival	QLD	\$5,000.00
Wordfest: Banff-Calgary International Writers Festival	Towards expenses for Kate Grenville & Roger McDonald to participate in three Canadian literary festivals in 2006		\$10,850.00



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION (PROMOTION)
Round Id: 14658 Closing Date: 01-OCT-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
arts@work	Towards expenses for Australian writers to participate in 2006 Tasmanian Living Writers' Week	TAS	\$10,000.00
Grants this Round: 29		Amount Approved:	\$276,837.00



GRANTS LIST

Literature Board
 SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT - ORGANISATIONS
 Round Id: 14659 Closing Date: 01-OCT-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Australian National Playwrights Centre Inc	Towards costs of 2006 Australian National Playwrights' Conference & New Dramatists' Exchange Program	NSW	\$55,000.00
Eleanor Dark Foundation Ltd	Towards costs of the Longlines Extension Masterclass for five Australian writers	NSW	\$7,500.00
Fantastic Queensland Inc	Clarion South Writers' Workshop for emerging writers of speculative fiction	QLD	\$8,900.00
Five Islands Press Pty Ltd	Towards costs of 2006 New Poets Publishing Program Series 12 and Wollongong Poetry Workshop	VIC	\$14,200.00
Fremantle Children's Literature Centre Inc	Towards costs of professional development seminars for writers and illustrators of children's & young adult literature	WA	\$16,605.00
May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust	Fees & travel costs only for 14 residential fellowships for children's book writers & illustrators	SA	\$20,000.00
National Institute of Dramatic Art	Towards fees & travel costs for theatre professionals involved in the 2006 NIDA Playwrights' Studio	NSW	\$4,600.00
Playworks Inc	Towards script and writer development programs and "Words in Winter"	NSW	\$21,450.00
Red Dust Theatre Inc	Script development for three playwrights with dramaturge Peter Matheson	NT	\$5,895.00
Tasmanian Writers' Centre Inc	Towards the 2006 writers' development program including mentorships, workshops & residencies	TAS	\$10,000.00
Wagga Wagga Writers Writers Inc	Towards the costs of one residential fellowship/mentorship in 2006	NSW	\$3,350.00
Grants this Round: 11		Amount Approved:	\$167,500.00
Total Grants: 69		Total Amount Approved:	\$914,546.00

