

Committee(s)	Dated:
Culture, Heritage and Libraries – For Decision	22/10/2018
Subject: City Arts Initiative: recommendations to the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee	Public
Report of: Peter Lisley – Assistant Town Clerk and Culture Mile Director	For Decision
Report author: Nick Bodger, Cultural and Visitor Development Director	

Summary

This report presents the recommendations of the City Arts Initiative (CAI) which met on 20 September 2018. At this meeting, the CAI considered the following proposals:

- 1. Roundhouse - 52 Lime Street:** a new permanent sculpture is proposed by the landowner for 52 Lime Street (application for public art on private land)
- 2. Ice Watch London:** an installation of a number of blocks of ice on Peter's Hill and in other City locations to raise awareness about the impact of climate change
- 3. The Fearless Girl:** Kirsten Visbal's Fearless Girl to be situated outside the London Stock Exchange for six months

The following application was considered by the CAI between meetings and declined:

- 1. Domestic David:** an art installation reimagining Michelangelo's David proposed for temporary installation in Paternoster Square

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Ratify the City Arts Initiative's recommendations in relation to the above proposals as follows:
 - **Ice Watch London:** approve the proposed installation, noting that the number and location of the ice blocks must be agreed with your Highways Team; risk assessments and method statements must be provided to advise how meltwater will be dealt with in the event of run-off and of freeze/thaw; a procedure must be in place for the removal of the ice blocks if they have not melted by 21 December 2018; and there must be clearance of at least 2m around each block.

- **The Fearless Girl:** approve noting the need to ensure 2m clearance around sculpture
- **Domestic David:** decline as the proposal constitutes advertising even with logos and manufacturer name removed.

Main Report

Background

1. The City Arts Initiative was established to improve the management of public art in the City. It provides advice to your Committee and other service Committees as appropriate on proposals for new public art, the maintenance of the City's existing public art and, if necessary, decommissioning.
2. At your Committee in May this year, Members confirmed that those occupying the roles of Chairman and Deputy Chairman on the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee and the Chairman of the Sculpture in the City Partner Board should have permanent seats on the City Arts Initiative. Your Committee also elected Mrs Barbara Newman and Mr Jeremy Simons to serve on the CAI for the 2018/19 committee year.
3. Apart from officer time handling enquiries and managing the installations, there are no resource implications other than where specifically noted.

Current Position

4. The CAI met on 20 September 2018 to consider the proposals outlined below.
5. Full-colour visual representations of the proposed artworks are circulated electronically with this report and available in appendix 1. Full details of all the applications to the CAI are available on request from the Assistant Town Clerk and Culture Mile Director.

Proposals

Roundhouse: 52 Lime Street

6. The CAI received a proposal for placing a new sculpture on private land at 52 Lime Street.
7. This particular sculpture was selected for the juxtaposition it provides between the building and the plaza. The curving, circular lines stand in contrast to the sharp "scalpel" lines of the building and help to soften the entrance.
8. The sculpture is 4.77 x 4 x 3m and made of steel, sitting on a raised stone plinth.
9. The CAI may not recommend, and your Committee may not approve or decline applications for public art on private land. However, CAI members requested the following items be considered when the planning application is

reviewed: how the risk of the public climbing the sculpture may be mitigated; that sufficient pedestrian flow is allowed around the sculpture (at least 2m); that the height of the plinth be raised to avoid bikes being locked to its legs; and that consideration is given to wind turbulence in the tall buildings cluster.

Ice Watch London

10. The CAI received a proposal for the placement of 24 ice blocks measuring 1.5 x 1.5 x 3m and weighing 6-9 tons each to be placed on each side of Peter's Hill from 10 – 21 December 2018. Four additional ice blocks were proposed for private land at the Bloomberg headquarters on Queen Victoria Street.
11. The installation aims to inspire and empower public action against climate change. Acting like a physical timeline, *Ice Watch* embodies the passage of time and deterioration, making climate change an emotional, tangible experience.
12. The creator, Olafur Eliasson, is an internationally acclaimed artist. He has represented Denmark at the Venice Biennale and installed *The Weather Project* in the Turbine Hall of Tate Modern.
13. The artist is seeking sponsorship of the project from Bloomberg Philanthropy.
14. The ice blocks will be placed on a thin layer of gravel directly on the ground and will be illuminated by electrical totems specifically installed on site.
15. The CAI recommends that this proposal be approved subject to consultation with your Highways Team and production of satisfactory risk assessments and method statements that consider how meltwater will be dealt with in the event of run-off and of freeze/thaw; what procedure may be put in place for the removal of the ice blocks if they have not melted by 21 December 2018; and that clearance of at least 2m around each block is ensured.

The Fearless Girl

16. The CAI received a proposal for Kirsten Visbal's *Fearless Girl* to be situated outside the London Stock Exchange for six months from March 2019. Placement has been agreed with your Highways Team and Paternoster Square.
17. *The Fearless Girl* is a bronze sculpture of a young girl that celebrates the spirit of women who are taking charge today; it serves as inspiration for the next generation of female leaders. The placement of this statue in the City of London serves as a legacy of the Cultural and Visitor Development team's *Women: Work and Power* programme.
18. *The Fearless Girl* stands 130cm tall and weighs approximately 110kg. The statue will stand on a slightly raised plinth which will match the stone of the surrounding area.

19. The statue will require regular cleaning and this will be funded by the applicant (State Street) using the preferred supplier of the Paternoster Estate.
20. The CAI recommended that this proposal be approved subject to clearance around the sculpture of 2m.

Domestic David

21. The CAI received a proposal to place a reimagining of Michelangelo's David in Paternoster Square from 26-30 September 2018.
22. The application is made by PR agency Taylor Herring on behalf of their client with the aim of giving one of the world's most famous statues a tongue-in-cheek twist to inspire the public and reinvent classic statues for today's generation in a fun and light-hearted way.
23. The CAI recommended that this proposal be declined as it constitutes advertising.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

24. The City Arts Initiative was formed to support the City's management of public art which supports the delivery of the City's Cultural and Visitor Strategies.

Conclusion

25. This report summarises the discussions of the City Arts Initiative and presents recommendations in relation to the public art applications considered on 31 May 2018.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: CAI Images, 20 September 2018

Background Papers

Full details of the applications received by the City Arts Initiative are available on request from the Assistant Town Clerk and Culture Mile Director.

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