

Committee(s)	Dated:
Culture, Heritage and Libraries – For Decision	13/05/2019
Subject: City Arts Initiative: recommendations to the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee	Public
Report of: Peter Lisley – Assistant Town Clerk and Director of Major Projects	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 28 March 2019. At this meeting, the CAI considered public art proposals 1 to 2 (below):

1. **Culture Mile - Pleasure Garden:** a site-specific sound installation for outdoor spaces commissioned by Culture Mile.
2. **Displaced:** a series of personal objects displayed in glass cabinets, as part of a London-wide fundraising trail created by Paul Atherton for the Museum of Homelessness.

Recommendation(s)

Members of the Culture Heritage and Libraries Committee are asked to:

- Ratify the City Arts Initiative's recommendations in relation to proposals 1 to 2 above as follows:
 - **Culture Mile - Pleasure Garden:** note the application, acknowledging that the CAI may only comment and not recommend, and that your Committee may not approve or decline applications for public art on private land.
 - **Displaced:** decline the application at this stage, noting lack of clarity regarding what the objects are and if the presentation of these objects will be breaching City of London advertising policies.

Main Report

Background

1. The City Arts Initiative (CAI) 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. The CAI comprises elected Members drawn from your Committee and relevant officers across planning, highways, open spaces, and cultural and visitor development, as well as those with specific expertise in the visual arts.
3. At your Committee in May 2018, 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.
4. Apart from officer time handling enquiries and managing the installations, there are no resource implications other than where specifically noted.

Current Position

5. The CAI met on 28 March 2019 to consider the proposals outlined below.
6. 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 Director of Major Projects.

Proposals

Pleasure Garden

7. The CAI received a proposal for *Pleasure Garden*, a site-specific sound installation for outdoor spaces to be sited in Salters Hall Gardens. It fuses music and technology in a light-touch way to create a contemplative, playful space for audiences of all ages and backgrounds.
8. Inspired by the story and music of Jacob van Eyck - the 17th century Dutch composer - Pleasure Garden combines excerpts from his work, set within specially-composed new music by Genevieve Lacey and Jan Bang.
9. Commissioned by the Barbican Music Programming team as part of Sound Unbound, the installation will be sited in Charterhouse Norfolk Gardens and will then transfer to Salters Hall gardens.
10. Install begins week commencing 13th May and installation live from 23rd May – 14th June.
11. The installation is being funded by Culture Mile.
12. The installation is comprised of 32 speakers and a 16-channel surround sound system. The speakers are housed in bird boxes and/or upturned plant pots, carefully placed around the garden.

13. Cabling will be buried underneath the earth in the gardens. There are no structural requirements.
14. Concerns were raised by the CAI that the installation could affect residents and so consultation with Markets and Consumer Protection prior to installation was advised.
15. The Department for Built Environment also advised that adequate consideration is given to visual signposting to inform people with neurological processing difficulties about the sound installation.
16. The CAI may comment on but not recommend, and your Committee may not approve or decline applications for public art on private land. This application is therefore for informational purposes but subject to standard planning application procedures.
17. The CAI has asked that the following recommendations be taken into consideration:
 - a. Consultation with Markets and Consumer Protection prior to installation to mitigate any potential noise issues with residents, considering viable mechanisms to direct sound and reduce sound levels (if deemed necessary).
 - b. There's adequate consideration given to visual signposting at the entrance of the garden, as this would help people with sensory or neurological processing difficulties (who may experience sensory overload) to assess whether they want to enter or not.
 - c. Organisers provide a lead contact for the project who can be contacted in case of any noise issues over the duration of its installation.
 - d. All construction and maintenance plans are approved by the landowner.

Displaced

18. The CAI received a proposal for the placement of 5 display cabinets in the City of London which will hold individual items owned by artist Paul Atherton.
19. Displaced is an art project designed to challenge many of the myths associated with homelessness in London. It sees fifty objects extracted from homeless artist Paul Atherton's storage unit, (where they've been for the past ten years since he lost his home) housed in museum cases on-street and in buildings across London's Zone One.
20. The trail is designed to raise awareness and funds for the Museum of Homelessness.
21. The manufacturer of each product on display is being asked to fund the costs of the manufacture, installation, maintenance, extraction and disposal of their own museum case.

22. The submission being suggested for the City of London is to house five objects of the total fifty. There will be three on street and the other two items will be at the Museum of London and the Barbican Centre.
23. Exact sizing of the objects and cases is still being researched. The maintenance requirements are also currently being researched through the building of a prototype.
24. The project is due to start on 1 July 2019 and end 30 September 2019.
25. Concerns were raised over how the sponsors of the project and manufacturers of the cabinets were credited on the trail, as this may breach City of London advertisement regulations. It was recommended that the applicant may need to apply for advertisement consent.
26. Concerns were also raised about the security of the cabinets and the CAI wanted reassurance that the cabinet would not be easily breakable or moveable.
27. The CAI recommends that this application be declined, and that the applicant reapply after more information pertaining to the issues cited above is available; specifically, when concerns over advertising compliance and security have been resolved.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

28. 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

29. This report summarises the discussions of the City Arts Initiative and presents recommendations in relation to the public art applications considered on 28 March 2019.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: CAI Images, 28 March 2019

Background Papers

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

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