

Committee(s)	Dated:
Culture, Heritage and Libraries – For Decision	09/07/2019
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 30 May 2019. At this meeting, the CAI considered public art proposals 1 to 2 (below):

- 1. Edward Waite – Bull’s Head:** a monumental sculpture of a bull’s head.
- 2. Bureau of Silly Ideas – BFPB:** a series of installations across the public realm that reference the history of the sewers and the Tideway Tunnel.

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:
 - **Edward Waite – Bulls Head:** decline the application, noting the proposal was unsuitable for the desired locations.
 - **Bureau of Silly Ideas – BFPB:** approve the application, subject to final consent from the Highways and City Gardens Teams and implementation of the recommendations.

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 2019, 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 2019/20 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 30 May 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

Edward Waites – Bulls Head

7. The CAI received a proposal for a large sculpture of a bull's head by British sculptor Edward Waites.
8. Edward's works can be found in private collections around the world including collections held by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
9. The sculpture is part of a limited edition and has been funded by Stuart Gulliver (Former HSBC CEO 2010-2018). Maintenance will be funded by the artist.
10. The applicant wishes to place the bull's head in the hub of London's financial district and potentially outside London Stock Exchange to commemorate the industry's history in the City's development. An alternative location proposed is Smithfield Meat Market, commemorating the historic trade in that location.
11. The sculpture is 2.4 meters in height, including its plinth. The width of the sculpture is 1.8 meters and the depth of the piece is 1.7 meters. The sculpture weighs approximately 350kg.
12. There are no structural requirements apart from fixings to the carriageway.
13. The sculpture will be ready for installation in summer 2019 and is available as part of a permanent installation or on a shorter term basis.
14. The CAI agreed that the Stock Exchange was an unsuitable location for the sculpture, noting that the land is third-party-owned.

15. In relation to the secondary location, it was noted that the applicant would need to also consult with Smithfield Traders Association and Culture Mile and that their views should be sought in relation to the application before any decision is made.
16. The CAI highlighted the move of Museum of London to West Smithfield and thus the need to consider fully the suitability any of long-term public art installations in this area, noting that it would not be appropriate to site it there when the City Corporation is – at present – embarking on a joined up piece of public realm planning for Museum of London and around Smithfield if the market moves.
17. Your Department of the Built Environment advised that there were limited areas in the proposed locations that could accommodate the size of the sculpture with the mandatory access requirements.
18. Due to the proposed location of Smithfield Market, the Culture Mile Team were consulted on this application following the meeting on 30 May and have advised against its installation for reasons relating to Culture Mile's content principles. Detailed comments can be requested from the Assistant Town Clerk and Director of Major Projects.
19. **The CAI recommended that this application be declined, noting that the artwork was unsuitable for the proposed locations.**

Bureau of Silly Ideas – BFPB

20. The CAI received a proposal for Big Fat Poo Bergers (BFPB) from the Bureau of Silly Ideas.
21. BFPB is a project designed to educate people about the history of the sewers and celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Joseph Bazalgette.
22. This application proposes a series of signs and devices in public locations around the City. These will alert members of the public to themes related to miasma and the sewers in a style akin to public works and safety notices.
23. Delivery of the applicant's project also includes a series of workshops that focus on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) skills in primary schools and performance / combined art practice in secondary schools, as well as an event in Aldgate Square in September.
24. This application for CAI solely concerns the installations and signage that will be found across the public realm.
25. One part of the project proposed was a series of A3, A2 and A1 signs that alerted the public to smells or sewer-related events within the area.

26. Another installation proposed was a small labelled box with a flashing LED and aerial. A number of these will be secured on lampposts and on work site fences.
27. The applicant will also install a bespoke illuminated water/fire feature which would be sited inside three or four pieces of heras fencing. The structure has been designed with a series of safety measures in place, including protective caging around the installation, a water tank and added height so any live flames are significantly above street level and the reach of pedestrians. On the occasions that it's activated, the installation will be supervised by safety and security personnel that will invigilate and ensure that spectators are safe.
28. The proposed placement for these pieces is alongside existing construction or engineering works in order to imitate normal public notices and signs across the public realm.
29. BFPB has been commissioned by your Cultural and Visitor Development Team as part of *Fantastic Feats: The Building of London* and Totally Thames. The project is also supported by Thames Water.
30. CAI advised that the Bureau of Silly Ideas' logo needed to be prominent on the signage and that any graphic design should be significantly different to any existing designs used by official construction or highway organisations. This was suggested to mitigate any potential confusion from the public.
31. Your Department of Built Environment also advised that consultation with the City of London Police would be necessary in order to ensure that any complaints or reports from the public following sightings of the monitoring boxes may be dealt with accordingly.
32. Noting that there were contact details on the proposed signage, which requested the public to engage and report smells, the CAI also advised that a suitable response mechanism needed to be in place should any member of the public follow the instructions and report the smells.
33. **The CAI recommends that this application be approved subject to final consent by Highways and Open Spaces, as well as the following recommendations:**
 - a. **The applicant should consult the City of London Police to ensure that any public concerns or complaints are mitigated;**
 - b. **The signs should be designed in a way that makes them distinctly different from official signage that is already used in the public realm;**
 - c. **The applicant should ensure that there is a response mechanism implemented for members of the public should anyone follow the instructions on the signs and contact the organiser; and**
 - d. **The application should adhere to all access requirements.**

Corporate & Strategic Implications

34. 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

35. This report summarises the discussions of the City Arts Initiative and presents recommendations in relation to the public art applications considered on 30 May 2019.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: CAI Images, 30 May 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.

Nick Bodger

Cultural and Visitor Development Director

T: 020 7332 3263

E: Nick.Bodger@cityoflondon.gov.uk