

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Culture, Heritage & Libraries	22 October 2012
Subject: City of London Festival 2012 Programme	Public
Report of: Director of Culture, Heritage & Libraries	For Information

Summary

The City of London Festival has presented reports on its 2012 50th anniversary programme, comprising 265 events whose overall attendance figures exceeded box office targets by 20%.

Recommendation

- Members are asked to note to contents of the report and endorse its presentation of a highly successful programme of events.

Main Report

Background

1. Following on from the Governance Review, the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee has taken over responsibility for the oversight of the City of London Festival. In March 2012 the Committee approved the Festival budget for 2013-14 and it will periodically receive reports on the Festival's activities. The purpose of this report is to introduce the Festival's reports on its 2012 programme, which constituted the Festival's 50th anniversary. The main report is supplemented by a separate one focusing on the free events programme.

Current Position

2. The Festival, through its management board the City Arts Trust, receives two discrete blocks of funding from the Corporation. Its major grant (now set at the level of £297,000) supports the Festival's core ticketed programme, while a smaller grant (£87,676) is devoted to a programme of free outdoor events. This smaller grant is itself divided between a summer programme, running alongside the core Festival, and a freestanding winter programme.
3. The attached documents are the Festival's reports on its 2012 Summer programme. They speak for themselves but a few key points may be brought out:
 - 51 ticketed performances were mounted, and 209 free events, making a total of 265 events in all

- The total audience figures of 163,000 exceeded the box office target by 20%
- Significant external funding was raised, to more than match the Corporation's input
- The programme was delivered with extensive involvement of other partners, including the Barbican Centre, the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, Gresham College, and a wide range of churches, livery companies and other cultural organisations.

Conclusion

4. The Festival has once again brought the Square Mile to life during five weeks of summer with a wide range of cultural activities across many venues. Members are asked to note to contents of the reports and endorse their presentation of a successful 50th anniversary season.

Appendices

Appendix A - 2012 City of London festival

Appendix B - 2012 free street entertainment programme

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