

Committee(s): Culture, Heritage and Libraries – For Decision	Dated: 18/03/2024
Subject: City Arts Initiative – Delegated Authority Proposal	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	3, 7 and 10
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	n/a
What is the source of Funding?	n/a
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	n/a
Report of: Damian Nussbaum, Director of Innovation & Growth	For Decision
Report author: Joanna Parker, Principal Planning Officer, Environment Luciana Magliocco, Destination Director, Innovation & Growth	

Summary

This report summarises recommendations and a proposal for a revision in the City Arts Initiative (CAI) approval process. Currently, all CAI recommendations on proposals for public art and blue plaques in the City go to the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee (CHL) to be ratified.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Make a decision based on the three options outlined in the options section of the report. The CAI recommendation is for option 2 – to delegate authority on CAI applications which meet agreed criteria (defined in paragraph 12) to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of CHL.

Main Report

Background

1. The CAI was established in 2011, originally administered by the Town Clerks Department in conjunction with the Environment Team. The administration of CAI was moved to Destination City under Innovation & Growth in 2022.
2. The CAI panel was originally set up to improve the management of public art on City land and buildings and to provide recommendation to the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee (CHL) on proposals for new public art in the City. This has expanded informally to further include new public art on private land and buildings. In 2020, the City

Arts Initiative also took on the strategic oversight and a review system for the City of London Blue Plaque Scheme which is administered by City Surveyors Department. The process for the Blue Plaque Scheme is currently being reviewed.

3. The CAI has been chaired by Joanna Parker, Principal Planning Officer since October 2023. It is made up of officers from across Planning, Environment, Heritage Estates, Destination City and the Media Team. There are also external panellists who have an expertise in outdoor and visual arts. A full list of CAI panellists can be viewed in the Terms of Reference at [Appendix 1](#).
4. The Chair and Deputy Chair of CHL are permanent Members of the CAI. Each year three CHL Members are elected to serve a one-year term on the panel. This is done via a nomination process by CHL each May. As agreed by CHL in May 2023, the following five CHL Members are currently members of the CAI:
 - Munsur Ali (Chair of CHL)
 - John Griffiths (Deputy Chair of CHL)
 - John Foley
 - Anett Rideg
 - Judith Pleasance
5. Wendy Hyde also sits on the CAI panel by virtue of her position as Chair on the Sculpture in the City Board.

Current Position

6. CAI panel meetings are arranged approximately 6 weeks prior to CHL to allow time for any reports to be submitted. The sequencing of these meetings is not always aligned which can cause delays to the approval process and response times to applicants.
7. The [CAI webpage](#) encourages applications to be made at an early stage of project planning. It is also advised that applicants consult with Highways and Planning teams 12 weeks prior to an application.
8. Despite guidance to submit applications early, there are occasions when the panel receive applications which have a short timeframe. Decisions on these applications often need to be made quickly or under the urgency process due to the applicant's project timetable. This process is time consuming for Members and officers as it requires additional staff resource and quick turnaround.
9. If an application cannot be approved in the proposed time, there may be a financial risk for the organiser/delivery partners if plans cannot be rearranged or if the timelines need to be extended. There is also a possibility of reputational risk for the Corporation with the art and cultural sector and suppliers.
10. The option of delegated authority was presented to the CAI panel at the last meeting on 8 February 2024. There was a mixed response from Members which have been considered in the proposed options.

Options

11. **Option 1: no change** – CHL to accept the financial and reputational risks, as outlined under the strategic implications section, and the current CHL approval process remains. CAI continues to report into CHL for all public art and blue plaque proposals.
12. **Option 2: delegate authority for installations meeting agreed criteria** – CHL to delegate authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of CHL, supported by the Chair of CAI, for applications which meet an agreed set of criteria (more information in paragraph 14). The current approval process remains for any permanent public art applications, including blue plaques.
13. **Option 3: delegate all** – CHL to delegate authority on all CAI applications to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of CHL, supported by the Chair of CAI. Reports on approved and/or rejected applications are sent to CHL for information.
14. If option 2 is approved, CAI will develop a set of criteria to guide delegated decisions which will be taken to CHL Committee for decision in May 2024. It is proposed that these are based on four criteria:
 - a. The **duration** that an installation would be in place. Applications where the installation is intended to be in place for less than a year would fall into the temporary category.
 - b. The **reputational impact** of an installation. Some examples of this might be applications which may be considered contentious or situated in a high-profile location.
 - c. The **timeliness** of the application - the speed in which a decision is needed, driven by the date that the proposed artwork is to be installed.
 - d. The **financial value** of the installation. Financial metrics are not currently in place for CAI applications, so this information would be collected and used to refine the criteria, if required.
15. Additional measures for minimising the risk from late submissions for public art will be explored and implemented over the next year. This will include increasing the frequency of CAI meetings and clarifying the process for submissions to the CAI. The CAI website will be updated in Summer 2024 to provide clearer signposting of the application process and deadlines.

Strategic implications

16. Financial implications – If an application cannot be approved in the proposed time, there may be additional costs incurred for the organiser/delivery partners.
17. Resource implications – If an application cannot be approved in the proposed time, the project may need to be extended impacting on project and corporation staff time.
18. Legal implications – No legal implications have been identified as part of the Delegated Authority proposal.
19. Risk implications – If a proposal cannot be approved in the proposed time, there is a possibility of reputational risk for the Corporation. This may negatively impact the Corporation's reputation within the art and culture sector and among suppliers.

20. Equalities implications – No equalities implications have been identified as part of the Delegated Authority proposal.
21. Climate implications – No climate implications have been identified as part of the Delegated Authority proposal.
22. Security implications – No security implications have been identified as part of the Delegated Authority proposal.

Conclusion

20. This report summarises the recommendation made for Members of CHL to delegate authority on CAI applications for installations meeting an agreed set of criteria, as outlined in option 2.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - City Arts Initiative Terms of Reference

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