

<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>
Culture, Heritage & Libraries	1 July 2013
<b>Subject:</b> City Arts Initiative	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Town Clerk	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Summary</b>	
<p>This report presents the recommendations of the City Arts Initiative which met on 28 May 2013. The group considered the following proposals: the Aldgate Experiments, Puss &amp; Mews and the Timber Staircase. The Timber Staircase is recommended for your approval. Puss &amp; Mews were requested to consider an alternative locations and it was noted that the Aldgate Experiments had already been approved by the Streets &amp; Walkways Committee.</p> <p>It is recommended that you give consideration to appointing representatives from your Committee to serve on the City Arts Initiative Group.</p>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
<p>It is recommend that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Timber Staircase application be approved, subject to the applicant securing planning permission and other appropriate licenses.</li> <li>• Members of the Culture, Heritage &amp; Libraries Committee are appointed to serve on the City Arts Initiative</li> </ul>	

## Main Report

### **Background**

1. The City Arts Initiative was established to improve to 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. Your Committee appointed your Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Michael Welbank to sit on the City Arts Initiative Group in the 2012/13 Committee year.

### **Current Position**

3. The City Arts Initiative met on 28 May to consider a number of applications: the Aldgate Experiments, Puss & Mews and the Timber Staircase.
4. Full details of the applications are available on request from the Town Clerk.

## **Proposals**

### Member Representation on the City Arts Initiative Group

5. Your Committee appointed your Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Michael Welbank to serve on the City Arts Initiative during the last Committee year. It is proposed that you consider making appointments to the City Arts Initiative for this current Committee year.
6. The City Arts Initiative is scheduled to meet in advance of each meeting of the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee. The forthcoming dates are 24 September and 12 December.

### The Aldgate Experiments

7. The Aldgate Experiments are part of the City's Aldgate Enhancement Strategy. The Experiments will deliver a series of temporary installations in Aldgate in order to encourage greater use of the area. The first stage (May-September) is a soft launch which includes brick wall seating, viewing pods, giant glower pots and wall & floor graphics. These installations will form part of the consultation and engagement process for the Aldgate Gyratory Project.
8. It was felt that this first stage did not really constitute "art" as it was part of the broader consultation methodology. However it is expected that future art installations will be submitted through the City Arts Initiative to your Committee.
9. As this project, installations and consultation method has already been approved by Project Sub Committee and the Streets & Walkways Committee, a recommendation is not submitted to your Committee.

### Puss and Mews

10. This is a proposal to reconstruct a public house snug c1850-70 in one of the disused subways around the Aldgate Gyratory, to order to create an immersive experience for up to 6 people. It is intended to communicate a part of lost London heritage and social history.
11. It was noted that there had previously been discussions between Puss and Mews and the Guildhall Art Gallery about this proposal and the potential to connect with the Gallery's Victorian exhibition.
12. Although it was felt that this was an interesting project, it was felt that the Aldgate Subways were not an appropriate location. The applicant will therefore be asked to consider an alternative location.

### Timber Staircase

13. This application is part of the London Design Festival and it intended to be the flagship project of the Festival, which will take place for 14-22 September 2013. The application proposes to install an large interlocking staircase design in front of St Paul's Cathedral.



14. There was strong support for this proposal as it was felt to be of high quality, memorable and original. It was noted that there were some concerns about the temporary impact the installation would have on views of St Pauls but it was felt overall, the artistic merit outweighed these concerns. In view of the planning issues associated with views of St Pauls, it was suggested that the applicant and planning officers may wish to discuss the placing of the staircase to minimise the impact.
15. It was noted that there are a number of approvals required including planning permission, highways license and building control. In view of the strong artistic merit of the application, it is recommended that your Committee approve the application subject to the applicant securing planning permission and appropriate licenses.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

16. The City Arts Initiative was formed to support the City's management of public art which supports the "vibrant and culturally rich" strand of the City Together Strategy and the delivery of the City's Cultural Strategy.

### **Conclusion**

17. This report summarises the discussions of the City Arts Initiative and presents recommendations in relation to the public art applications considered on 28 May 2013.

### **Appendices**

None

**Background Papers:**

Full details of the applications are available on request from the Town Clerk.

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