

<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>
Culture, Heritage & Libraries	03 March 2014
<b>Subject:</b> City Arts Initiative: Recommendations	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Culture, Heritage and Libraries	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Summary</b>	
<p>This report presents the recommendations of the City Arts Initiative which met on 10 February 2014. The group considered the following proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wallace &amp; Gromit Children’s Charity Trail</li> <li>• Relocation of the “Go-Between” ornamental gates.</li> </ul>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
<p>It is recommend that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Wallace &amp; Gromit Children’s Charity Trail application be approved, subject to the applicant securing planning permission and other appropriate licenses.</li> <li>• The relocation of the “Go-Between” ornamental gates be rejected.</li> </ul>	

### **Main Report**

#### **Background**

1. The City Arts Initiative 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. Your Committee appointed your Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Barbara Newman to sit on the City Arts Initiative Group in the 2013/14 Committee year.

#### **Current Position**

3. The City Arts Initiative met on 10 February 2014 to consider two applications: the Wallace & Gromit Children’s Charity Trail and the relocation of the “Go-Between” ornamental gates.
4. Full details of the applications are available on request from the Director of Culture, Heritage and Libraries.

## Proposals

### The Wallace & Gromit Children's Charity Trail

5. Wallace and Gromit's Children's Charity, working with Aardman Animations wish to place 50 x 5ft *Shaun the Sheep* sculptures around the Square Mile for an 8-10 week period in April/May 2015 to create a sculpture trail.
6. Each sheep would be designed by a known artist or celebrity
7. A similar trail is planned to take place in July/August 2015 in Bristol and together the two trails will form 'A Trail of Two Cities'.
8. It is proposed that the sculptures are exhibited following the trails in a City venue before being sold to raise funds for Great Ormond Street Hospital and Bristol Children's Hospital.
9. A Shaun the Sheep Feature Film will be premiered before the opening of the trail, with the possibility of this taking place at the Barbican.
10. This proposal represents an exceptional opportunity to increase visitor footfall to the City and to generate income for our retail, hospitality, cultural and visitor sectors. It is envisaged that the project will lead to a significant rise in family audiences, these being an underrepresented group in our audience make-up and a priority target as per our Visitor Strategy 2013/17.
11. The City Arts Initiative recommended this for approval subject to the applicant securing planning permission and appropriate licenses.
12. A dedicated report that was considered by the City Arts Initiative, which includes a substantial list of benefits, is included for Members information at Appendix 1.

### "Go-Between"

13. This is a proposal to relocate a pair of wrought iron gates designed by blacksmith and jeweller Alan Evans entitled "Go-Between". The gates were originally commissioned by British Land for a location on Broad Lane at the entrance to Broadgate from the north but were removed from this location due to building work and further to a decision by English Heritage on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2011 which stated that, although they are considered to have intrinsic merit, they are not of listable quality.
14. As part of the Public Art Strategy approved through a Section 106 Agreement for the site's redevelopment the applicant was required to consult the City to determine whether another site can be found within the City.
15. It was noted that no alternative location had been proposed in the application and given the size (3m high x 12 m wide) and style of the gates no immediate alternative was evident to members.

16. It was also noted that no funding was associated with the project to cover installation or maintenance costs.
17. It was therefore felt that unless an appropriate site be put forward by the applicant and funding be provided the gates should be disposed of by the applicant as appropriate and the proposal be rejected by Committee.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

18. 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 and Visitor Strategies.

### **Conclusion**

19. This report summarises the discussions of the City Arts Initiative and presents recommendations in relation to the public art applications considered on 10 February 2014.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Wallace and Gromit's Children's Charity Proposal Report to City Arts Initiative.

### **Background Papers:**

Full details of the applications are available on request from the Director of Culture, Heritage and Libraries.

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