

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Culture, Heritage & Libraries	27 October 2014
Subject: City Arts Initiative: recommendations to the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee	Public
Report of: Director of Culture, Heritage and Libraries	For Decision
<p>Summary</p> <p>This report presents the recommendations of the City Arts Initiative (CAI) which met on 7 October 2014. The group considered the following proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ingram Collection: <i>Meat Porters</i> by Ralph Brown • Asia Chan-Rose: <i>Entry Making</i> • Mexican Embassy: <i>Lapidarium</i> by Gustavo Aceves <p>Recommendations</p> <p>It is recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ingram Collection's application be approved in principle • Asia Chan-Rose's application be rejected • Additional information be requested regarding the Mexican Embassy's application 	

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 2014/15 Committee year.

Current Position

3. The City Arts Initiative met on 7 October 2014 to consider three applications, as outlined in the summary.
4. Full details of the agenda and applications are available on request from the Director of Culture, Heritage and Libraries.

Proposals

Meat Porters by Ralph Brown

5. A proposal submitted by the Ingram Collection to show *Meat Porters*, a large-scale bronze sculpture by British sculptor Ralph Brown RA (1928 – 2013), at Smithfield Market as a loan for a period of one year.
6. *Meat Porters* was created after the artist was inspired by repeated visits to Smithfield Meat Market during the 1950s and depicts two ‘bummarees’ carrying an animal carcass. It is Ralph Brown’s most significant and best known work, commissioned by Harlow New Town in 1961 as the centrepiece of the town’s new market square, where it still stands.
7. This is the only other cast of the work, bought by philanthropist and art collector Chris Ingram, who is committed to widening public access to art. This proposal reunites *Meat Porters* with the source of its inspiration.
8. All costs, including the provision of a plinth, are to be covered by the Ingram Collection. The City Arts Initiative advised that suitable interpretation should also be provided to ensure most value for the general public.
9. The City Arts Initiative noted that the Superintendent of Smithfield Market would need to approve a precise location that did not interfere with the day-to-day running of the market
10. The City Arts Initiative recommended this for approval subject to the above and to the applicant securing planning permission and appropriate licenses.

Entry Making by Asia Chan-Rose

11. A proposal from Taiwanese artist Asia Chan-Rose to site a large-scale, bronze sculptural work on the grass to the south of St Paul’s Cathedral. The piece is inspired by a Chinese character (Ming) and celebrates a union of cultures, motherhood, joy and love.
12. It was noted that no funding had yet been secured to create this piece.
13. Given the prominence of the location proposed it was felt that any artwork installed there should be of significant artistic merit, and that this piece did not fulfil this criterion.
14. The City Arts Initiative recommended this to be rejected for the above reasons

Lapidarium by Gustavo Aceves

15. A proposal submitted by the Mexican Embassy in the UK on behalf of the Mexican Government as part of the ‘Year of Mexico’ celebrations in the UK in 2015. The initial approach came through the Mansion House.

16. The Mexican government is proposing to donate, on a permanent basis, a sculpture (or sculptures) by Gustavo Aceves, one of the country's most renowned contemporary sculptors, as a symbol of the cultural links between the two countries. The pieces proposed are up to five horses (3m x 3m) made of various materials, which are part of a larger project entitled *Lapidarium*.
17. A Mexican art gallery has sourced sponsorship to cover the cost of transporting and installing the sculpture(s) but no funding has been identified to cover maintenance costs.
18. Whilst the City Arts Initiative commended the quality of the artwork, and suggested it would be suitable for display in the City, and of interest to the public, it suggested a temporary loan would be preferable to avoid the costs and responsibility associated with taking on a sculpture on a permanent basis.
19. It was noted that there may be scope to develop a longer-term relationship with the Mexican embassy and a rolling programme of artwork could be examined.
20. The City Arts Initiative requested these points be fed back to the embassy before a decision to approve or reject be taken.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

21. 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

22. This report summarises the discussions of the City Arts Initiative and presents recommendations in relation to the public art applications considered on 7 October 2014.

Background Papers:

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

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