

<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>
Culture, Heritage & Libraries	2 March 2015
<b>Subject:</b> City Arts Initiative: recommendations to the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Culture, Heritage and Libraries	<b>For Decision</b>
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>This report presents the recommendations of a special meeting of the City Arts Initiative (CAI) which met on 17 February 2015 in order to consider the current shortlist for the <i>Sculpture in the City</i> programme 2015/16.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>It is recommended that all artworks on the short list be approved in principle.</p>	

### 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 for a special meeting on 17 February 2015 to consider the current short list for the *Sculpture in the City* programme as presented by co-Directors Stella Ioannou and Victor Callister
4. Images and further information about each of the sculptures under discussion can be found in Appendix 1.

#### **Proposals**

5. The *Sculpture in the City* programme, now entering its fifth consecutive year has been developed as part of a long-term vision to enhance the public realm, and forms part of the Eastern City Cluster and Fenchurch & Monument Area Enhancement Strategies. It is aligned with objectives in the City's Cultural Strategy 2012/17, Visitor Strategy 2013/17 and its community strategy, The City Together.

6. The short list of 21 sculptures for 2015/16 has been narrowed down from an initial long list of 65 through consultation with the Sculpture in the City steering groups: the Art Advisory Board and Partner Board.
7. It is envisaged that the final programme, to be launched in June/ July 2015, will consist of 12 sculptures. Logistical and financial considerations will need to be taken into account when deciding on the final programme.
8. The installation estimates of three of the sculptures presented here are currently prohibitively expensive and will require additional business partners to be bought on board in order for them to be feasible. Those artworks are Aiweiwei – Forever, Lygia Clark – Fantastic Architecture and Jens Haaning/ Santiago Sierra – The Copenhagen Declaration.
9. Discussions and site visits are currently ongoing with the artists and galleries in order to determine the location/s which best suit each piece and to understand the logistical implications of their installation and ongoing maintenance.
10. Each of the artworks in Appendix 1 was considered in turn. There was unanimous agreement from the group that the works proposed are all of a very high artistic quality and that the programme as a whole is strong, with a wide variety of pieces.
11. In principle agreement was therefore given to all artworks on the list on the understanding that logistical requirements would need to be considered before the final locations and pieces could be agreed.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

12. 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**

13. It is recommended that all the artworks in Appendix 1 be approved in order that the directors of *Sculpture in the City* can move forward with finalising the programme for 2015/16.
14. This report summarises the discussions of the City Arts Initiative and presents recommendations in relation to the Sculpture in the City short list considered on 17 February 2015.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Feasibility study for a public programme of events in September 2016, commemorating of the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Fire, produced by Artichoke

### **Background Papers:**

- Eastern City Cluster - Public Art (Year 4 & 5) – Gateway 6 update report

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