

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Culture, Heritage & Libraries	7 March 2016
Subject: City Arts Initiative: recommendations to the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee	Public
Report of: Director of Culture, Heritage & Libraries	For Decision
Report Author: Marcus Smith - City Culture Executive, Culture, Heritage and Libraries	
Summary	
<p>This report presents the recommendations of the City Arts Initiative which met on 18 February 2016. The group considered the following proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) City of London – Icarus Statue b) Fred Scott – Barbican Pier c) Matthew Maran – Hampstead Heath <i>London's Countryside</i> d) Southbank Mosaic – Shakespeare's London <p>Recommendation(s)</p> <p>It is recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of London be approved, with Guildhall playing temporary host to the Icarus Statue. • Fred Scott be rejected on the grounds of lack of artistic merit, concerns for local residents and lack of funding. • Matthew Maran be rejected because of concerns of unsatisfactory panel design, lack of funding and unsuitable location. • Southbank Mosaic be rejected because the request sought a blanket permission for artworks to be installed over a 10-15 year period, rather than proposing each individually over time. 	

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 2015/16 Committee year.

Current Position

3. The City Arts Initiative met on 18 February 2016 to consider four applications: the temporary rehoming of an Icarus Statue, a new Barbican Pier to remember civilian deaths of World War II, an outdoor exhibition focusing on London's wildlife and open spaces, and a long term plan to place Shakespeare-themed mosaics in the City and throughout London.
4. Full details of the all applications are available on request from the Director of Culture, Heritage & Libraries.

Proposals

City of London – Icarus Statue

5. In Greek mythology, Icarus is the son of the master craftsman Daedalus, the creator of the Labyrinth. Often depicted in art, Icarus and his father attempt to escape from Crete by means of wings constructed from feathers and wax.
6. This particular statue by Michael Ayrton (1973) normally resides in Old Change Court, however, the surrounding office buildings and open space are under re-development and the statue requires a temporary home.
7. The courtyard of the Guildhall North Wing has been identified as a suitable and secure space for approximately 3 years, starting from April/May 2016.
8. The project is funded by the developer of 2-6 Cannon Street, and will be cleaned annually as part of the City Wide public artwork cleaning contract, financed out of the City Surveyor's Local Risk.
9. The City Arts Initiative recommended this proposal for approval.

Fred Scott – Barbican Pier

10. Fred Scott is a City Resident on the Golden Lane Estate.
11. The proposed pier or bridge would be a processional route between London Wall and Barbican, as well as a memorial to the civilian dead from aerial bombardment of the Second World War.
12. No funding has been sought or found for the proposal, it is not part of a series and no maintenance plan has been devised.
13. All agreed this proposal has no strong foundation on which to move forward, and that it would be very complex and difficult to realise due to the multiple stakeholder groups that would need to be involved, and because it has no funding or support.

14. The City Arts Initiative recommended this proposal be rejected on grounds of lack of artistic merit, concerns for local residents and lack of funding.

Matthew Maran – Hampstead Heath *London's Countryside*

15. Award-winning photographer Matthew Maran is from London and has been published worldwide in books, conservation journals and magazines including BBC Wildlife and National Geographic.
16. Working on a collaborative project with the City of London he is showcasing the familiar and rarely seen animals and habitats of Hampstead Heath, to be published in a hard cover book in spring 2016.
17. As part of this project, he has proposed an outdoor temporary exhibition in Postman's Park during the Open Spaces weekend 18-19 June 2016, featuring 20 large format photographs with kestrels, fish and other scenes of nature.
18. The group agreed that the artistic merit is exemplary, however the display panels were considered basic and distasteful, and the location not suitable due to lack of space. The group also considered the proposal to be commercial advertising, precluding it from being hosted outdoors in the City.
19. The City Arts Initiative rejected this proposal on concerns of unsatisfactory panel design, lack of funding, advertising prohibition and unsuitable location.

Southbank Mosaic – Shakespeare's London

20. Southbank Mosaics have over 250 public art installations throughout London, and over a 10-15 year period they wish to place further murals of the Elizabethan and Jacobean world of Shakespeare throughout the streets of London, including the City.
21. The group agreed that installations should be considered on a one-by-one basis and that no blanket approval can be provided at this stage.
22. The City Arts Initiative rejected this proposal because it sought a blanket permission for artworks to be installed over a 10-15 year period, rather than proposing each individually over time. The group agreed that each mosaic can be considered separately in the future.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

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

Conclusion

7. This report summarises the discussions of the City Arts Initiative and presents recommendations in relation to the public art applications considered on 18 February 2016.

Background Papers:

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

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