

<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>
Culture, Heritage & Libraries	23 May 2016
<b>Subject:</b> City Arts Initiative: recommendations to the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Culture, Heritage & Libraries <b>Report author:</b> Marcus Smith, City Culture Executive,	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Summary</b>	
<p>This report presents the recommendations of the City Arts Initiative which met on 14 April 2016. The group considered the following proposals:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) Andrew Alexander Mackay – Smokescreen: Harm &amp; Liberty</p>	
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>	
<p>It is recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The City Arts Initiative rejected this proposal on grounds of unconvincing artistic merit, legal uncertainty and a clash with the CoL’s anti-smoking stance and campaigns.</b></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 2015/16 Committee year.

### **Current Position**

3. The City Arts Initiative met on 14 April 2016 to consider one application: a heavily branded cigarette packet with speakers to illustrate the demise of the tobacco industry.
4. Full details of the all applications are available on request from the Director of Culture, Heritage & Libraries.

## **Proposals**

### Andrew Alexander Mackay – Smokescreen: Harm & Liberty

5. Timed to coincide with the introduction of plain packaging for cigarettes in the UK and France, this provocative proposal wished to explore the decline and collapse of the tobacco industry.
6. The sculpture made of aluminium would also contain a large speaker with sensors, playing sound bites as people walk by of different documentary interviews.
7. No funding has been secured for the proposal, and no evidence of private funding and/or sponsorship has been provided. It was also felt that the artwork would cause confusion on the CoL's anti-smoking stance and campaigns.
8. Other concerns raised by the group included the late notice of the application, and legal uncertainty on trademarks/copyright.
9. **The City Arts Initiative rejected this proposal on grounds of unconvincing artistic merit, legal uncertainty and a clash with the CoL's anti-smoking stance and campaigns.**

## **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 14 April 2016.

## **Background Papers:**

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

## **Marcus Smith**

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