

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Culture, Heritage and Libraries – For Decision	06/02/2017
<b>Subject:</b> City Arts Initiative: recommendations to the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Peter Lisle – Assistant Town Clerk and Cultural Hub Director	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Nick Bodger, Head of Cultural and Visitor Development	

### Summary

This report presents the recommendations of the City Arts Initiative (CAI) which met on 12 January 2017. At this meeting, the CAI considered the following proposals:

- **Sculpture in the City:** a shortlist of sculptures that may be included in the 2017 programme for this initiative.
- **Unlimited Productions / Art Night:** two projects that will form part of the Art Night 2017 programme in the City of London:
  - **Do Ho Suh** (as a co-commission with Sculpture in the City);
  - **Gunes Terkol**, a new commission involving residents of Middlesex Street Estate which will see musical instruments and banners personalised by the residents and installed on the windows of The Cass, Metropolitan University on Whitechapel High Street; and a collaboration with residents and artist Karen Mirza to produce a permanent mural for the estate.
- **The 100 Bishopsgate Partnership:** a statue entitled “The Flesher” by Etienne Millner, to be permanently sited within St Helen’s Place, a private street under the ownership of The Leathersellers’ Company (which is also the commissioning body); and
- **Reignwood International UK:** in-principle permission sought for a new permanent sculpture depicting Samuel Pepys to be sited in Seething Lane Gardens – submitted by the City Corporation’s Open Spaces Department on behalf of the developer of the garden.

### Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Ratify the City Arts Initiative’s recommendations in relation to the above proposals as follows:

- **Sculpture in the City:** approve all shortlisted sculptures, noting final selection will be made subject to logistics and availability and ratified by the Sculpture in the City Board on which your Committee Chairman sits;
- **Unlimited Productions / Art Night:** approve the Do Ho Suh installation as part of Sculpture in the City, and the temporary musical instruments and banners in the windows of The Cass; but reject the permanent mural request until further information regarding consultation with the City's Housing Team and a more detailed proposal for mural content have been received and considered by the CAI;
- **The 100 Bishopsgate Partnership:** approve with the recommendation that the proposed axis for the statue is reviewed but without changes being a condition of approval; and
- **Reignwood International UK:** approve the in-principle proposal for the subject of the statue on condition that a detailed application is made to the CAI for their consideration once the artist has been selected and the design progressed.

## **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 in the 2015/16 Committee year.
3. Apart from officer time handling enquiries and looking after the installations, there are no resource implications other than where specifically noted.

### **Current Position**

4. The CAI met on 12 January 2017 to consider the proposals outlined below.
5. Full details of the all applications to the CAI are available on request from the Assistant Town Clerk and Cultural Hub Director.
6. At the meeting, the CAI also received updates on previously approved applications. These included:

- a. A presentation by the Director of the Illuminated River Foundation detailing the winning design for the bridge lighting scheme following an international design competition. This presentation will be received by your Committee under a separate agenda item; and
  - b. A paper of the Tideway Public Art Programme informing the CAI that artist Nathan Coley has been selected to develop the installation on the Blackfriars Embankment Foreshore. In response, the CAI has requested that they have ongoing representation with Tideway while the design is developed.
7. Other business relating to the work of the CAI was also considered, this included:
  - a. A discussion regarding public art applications for works sited on private land and those requiring planning permission, with the CAI appointing a working sub-group to explore how a more efficient system might be established to solicit CAI recommendations ahead of planning applications being received; and
  - b. A vote of thanks to the outgoing chairman of the CAI, the Director of Culture Heritage and Libraries Mr David Pearson, for his significant contribution to the work for the group with agreement that the Head of Cultural and Visitor Development, Mr Nick Bodger, will succeed him as chairman.

## **Proposals**

### Sculpture in the City 2017

8. The CAI received a presentation detailing all works shortlisted for inclusion in the 2017 programme of Sculpture in the City.
9. Noting final selection will be made subject to logistics and availability and ratified by the Sculpture in the City Board on which your Committee Chairman sits, the CAI recommended that the full shortlist be approved.
10. In addition, the CAI acknowledged the growing success of the programme and the international recognition it has achieved in recent years, thanking all those involved in its delivery.

### Unlimited Productions / Art Night

11. Art Night is a free contemporary arts festival that transforms London for one summer night. Each year, a leading cultural institution and curator are invited to work in a different area of London, exploring its history, culture and architecture.

12. Art Night 2017, curated by Fatos Ustek with the Whitechapel Gallery, will take place in the City of London and the East End, activating 10-12 iconic or unusual venues. The trail will connect the busy areas of Brick Lane, Spitalfields and Tower Bridge through Aldgate and Whitechapel, to create a stronger sense of destination and highlight their extraordinary history and heritage.
13. The CAI received a proposal for two projects that will form part of the Art Night 2017 programme in the City of London. A significant number of additional works situated in the East End were also detailed in the application. These works were not considered by the CAI given they fall beyond the scope of the group.
14. The first proposal was for a co-commission with Sculpture in the City by artist Do Ho Suh. This is recommended for approval by the CAI as part of the Sculpture in the City programme detailed above.
15. The second proposal is a new commission for artist Gunes Terkol. The commission is made up of two parts:
  - a. Through workshops with residents of Middlesex Street Estate, and in collaboration with the City Play East Team, Terkol will produce musical instruments and banners that workshop participants will personalise. These will then be installed in the windows of The Cass, Metropolitan University on Whitechapel High Street. The installation is temporary, for the duration of the festival only;
  - b. The second part of the commission sees Terkol collaborate with estate residents and artist Karen Mirza to produce a permanent or long-standing mural for the estate.
16. The CAI recommends for approval the first part of the commission as detailed in item 15a above, noting the very short timeframe that the installation is displayed (1 July 2017 only).
17. The CAI expressed significant concerns regarding the second part of the commission (the mural) and requested that officers investigate as to whether discussion has been had with the City Corporation's Housing Team and, if so, whether this project was viewed as a welcome addition to the estate environment.
18. In addition, the CAI requested that details of the subject for the mural and an outline of the process for developing it with residents be received, noting that a permanent mural would require planning permission.
19. The CAI therefore recommends that the mural element of the commission be rejected until this information is received and can be considered.

### The 100 Bishopsgate Partnership

20. An application for the installation of a statue entitled “The Flesher” by leading figurative sculptor Etienne Millner to be permanently sited within St Helen’s Place was received through the City Corporation Planning Team, following a request for planning permission from GVA Grimley Ltd on behalf of The 100 Bishopsgate Partnership.
21. The proposed location – the eastern end of St Helen’s Place – is a private street under the ownership of the Leathersellers’ Company (which is also the commissioning body) and falls within the St Helen’s Conservation Area. However, neither the courtyard nor any of the adjoining buildings are listed.
22. The statue is cast bronze on a Portland Stone plinth and depicts the traditional process of producing leather from animal hides. With “fleshing” now a mechanical process, the statue seeks to provide recognition of the tradition of the man as worker and maker, acknowledging a craft no longer carried out by hand commercially.
23. The statue complements the two existing statues on St Helen’s Place, which are set on either side of the entrance to the Livery Hall of the Leathersellers’ Company and also relate the trade of leather-selling.
24. The CAI expressed concern over the axis on which the statue was being installed, favouring a position that would see the sculpture facing the street. While it was not considered that this should be made a condition of approval it was suggested that this concern be communicated to the applicant.
25. The CAI also expressed concern over the number of figurative sculptures that have been installed in the City depicting ancient trades but felt that this particular work was on a subject and of a quality appropriate to the area.
26. The CAI therefore recommends this application for approval.

### Reignwood International UK

27. An application seeking in-principle approval for a new permanent sculpture depicting Samuel Pepys in Seething Lane Gardens was submitted by the City Corporation’s Open Spaces Department on behalf of the developer of the garden. The proposal will be fully funded by the developer Reignwood International UK.
28. The new sculpture will replace the former sculpture on the site, a bust of Pepys (bronze, Karin Jonzen, installed 1983) which has been installed in the nearby St Olave’s Churchyard, Hart Street for continued public display during the current major site works at Seething Lane Garden.
29. This bust has been a much appreciated addition to the churchyard, in keeping with the intimate scale of the site, and Members of your Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee supported the suggestion that it remain there indefinitely.

30. The new sculpture is proposed to be sited as a centrepiece to the refurbished Seething Lane Garden, part of which is the site of the Navy Office where Samuel Pepys lived and worked. It will seek to draw on the historic link with Pepys and give prominence to the heritage of this part of the City. The initial suggestion is that in contrast to the bust, the new sculpture should depict Pepys as a younger man about town or with his diary.
31. The CAI recommends Members approve the in-principle proposal for the subject of the statue on condition that a detailed application is made to the CAI for their consideration once the artist has been selected and a design progressed.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

32. The City Arts Initiative was formed to support the City's management of public art which supports the delivery of the City's Cultural and Visitor Strategies.

### **Conclusion**

33. This report summarises the discussions of the City Arts Initiative and presents recommendations in relation to the public art application considered on 12 January 2017.

### **Background Papers**

Full details of the applications received by the City Arts Initiative are available on request from the Assistant Town Clerk and Cultural Hub Director.

### **Nick Bodger**

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