

Committee(s)	Dated:
Culture, Heritage and Libraries	30/05/2017
Subject: City Arts Initiative: recommendations to the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee	Public
Report of: Peter Lisley – Assistant Town Clerk and Cultural Hub Director	For Decision
Report author: Alex Hugo, City Culture Executive	

Summary

This report presents the recommendations of the City Arts Initiative (CAI) which met on 28 April 2017. At this meeting, the CAI considered the following proposals:

- **Sculpture in the City:** final list of sculptures to be included in the 2017 programme for this initiative.
- **House of Sound:** two sonic installations that will form part of the Open House Weekend 2017 programme in the City of London, developed by music artist, Iain Chambers and visual artist, Dan Fox.

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:** note the final list of sculptures following your Committee's approval of the shortlist in January, understanding final installation will be subject to logistics and availability;
 - **House of Sound:** approve the installation of 'Mythophones' as part of a sonic trail in the week 11-17 September across five locations in and around the Cheapside area, and of the soundscape speakers in the Guildhall Yard for the Open House Weekend (16/17 September).

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 Mrs 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 28 April 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.

Proposals

Sculpture in the City 2017

6. The CAI received a presentation detailing all works listed for inclusion in the 2017 programme of Sculpture in the City.
7. This highlighted the very recent withdrawal of one site from the 2017 programme and a report on the efforts being made to find suitable alternatives for the works originally proposed for installation there.
8. Noting final installation of all sculptures will be made subject to logistics and availability and that the CAI recommended that the full shortlist be approved in January (followed by ratification by your Committee), the group commended the final selection.

House of Sound

9. *House of Sound*, an initiative by sound artist Iain Chambers, is made up of two elements:
 - a. an installation of 'Mythophones' (large gramophone-like trumpets) in the Cheapside area encouraging those passing by to place their heads next to the speakers to hear the sounds of the historic City.
 - b. a soundscape in the Guildhall Yard during Open House weekend (16-17 September 2017) which will immerse visitors in a surround sound experience combining new music and archive sounds to recreate the City through time;
10. In a collaboration between artist, Dan Fox and composer/musician Iain Chambers, the Cheapside elements will comprise five 'Mythophones' forming an on-street sonic trail during the week running up to London Open House weekend (11-17 September).

11. The 'Mythophones' are attractive, red gramophone trumpet style objects, through which people are encouraged to listen to sounds of the City's past by placing their heads to the speaker.
12. The new site-specific music composition proposed for the Guildhall Yard will be played through loudspeakers and accompanied by live musicians using instruments from across the centuries.
13. The Yard performances will last around 20 minutes with performances on the hour during both days of the Open House weekend. They will also be broadcast on UK and German radio.
14. Iain Chambers (the applicant) is working with the City's Significant External Events Group (SEEG), the Remembrancer and relevant officers to ensure that all sound is within safe and reasonable levels.
15. The project has received funding from the City Corporation's Central Grants Scheme: *Inspiring London through Culture*, the Cheapside Business Alliance, and Arts Council England's Grants for the Arts; a funding application is also under consideration by the Heritage Lottery Fund.
16. The CAI recommends the House of Sound for approval.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

17. 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

18. This report summarises the discussions of the City Arts Initiative and presents recommendations in relation to the public art applications considered on 28 April 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.

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