

Committee(s)	Dated:
Culture, Heritage and Libraries – For Decision	14/05/2018
Subject: City Arts Initiative: recommendations to the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee	Public
Report of: Peter Lisley – Assistant Town Clerk and Culture Mile Director	For Decision
Report author: Nick Bodger, Head of Cultural and Visitor Development	

Summary

This report presents the recommendations of the City Arts Initiative (CAI) which met on 19 April 2018. At this meeting, the CAI considered the following proposals:

1. **Crossrail Art Foundation:** Conrad Shawcross, *Manifold*, proposal to install a permanent sculpture at Moorgate as part of the Crossrail development.
2. **London Festival of Architecture:** four applications for temporary, month-long installations across the City of London as part of the annual festival.
3. **Contemporary Art Society:** Michael Landy, Humanitarian Aid Memorial, proposal to install a permanent monument to humanitarians in the City of London.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Ratify the City Arts Initiative's recommendations in relation to the above proposals as follows:
 - **Crossrail Art Foundation:** approve the proposed installation and recommend that sleeved bollards be considered.
 - **London Festival of Architecture:** approve the installation of the proposed temporary artistic interventions, subject to implementation of CAI recommendations on access, security, location and other issues; and agreement with Transport for London (TfL), and the City Corporation's City Gardens and Highways teams where appropriate.
 - **Contemporary Art Society:** decline, noting the sculpture's significant scale and thus its unsuitability for siting in the City's small gardens and churchyards.

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 (temporary and permanent), the maintenance of the City's existing public art and, if necessary, decommissioning.
2. In 2015/16, your Committee appointed your Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Mrs Barbara Newman to sit on the City Arts Initiative panel.
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 19 April 2018 to consider the proposals outlined below.
5. Full-colour visual representations of the proposed artworks are circulated electronically with this report and available in appendix 1. Details of all applications are available on request from the Assistant Town Clerk and Culture Mile Director.

Proposals

Crossrail Art Foundation: Conrad Shawcross, *Manifold*

6. The CAI received a proposal for the placement of a permanent sculpture at the western ticket hall entrance to the Elizabeth Line Moorgate/Liverpool Street Station.
7. The Crossrail Art Foundation, a registered charity founded with significant support from the City Corporation, has a mission to promote art for the benefit of the public by establishing and maintaining a public art programme that will enhance the journeys of the millions of people who will use the Elizabeth Line each day.
8. The sculpture by Conrad Shawcross is cast in bronze and proposed for a site that provides sufficient support to the piece without impacting on works below ground; the site has been selected in consultation with the City Corporation's Public Realm team and sponsor Land Securities.
9. The CAI raised concerns that the standard City of London bollards shown in the proposal would detract from the artwork and recommended that sleeved bollards be used to allow for the possibility of changing the outward look of them later. They offered their visual arts expertise to help develop these

sleeves at a later date so that they are in keeping with the artwork should the applicant/City teams find this input useful.

10. The CAI recommended that this proposal be approved and that a sleeved bollard be considered.

London Festival of Architecture

11. The London Festival of Architecture is an annual event which receives much public and press interest. The City Corporation has entered into a partnership with the festival and is working with them to deliver a number of installations across the City in June 2018.

London Festival of Architecture: Sigita Simona Paplauskaite, *The Building Site*

12. This is the first of four proposals received by the CAI for consideration. The installation consists of a small walled garden surrounding a full-sized tree. The interior panels of the installation are mirrored, giving the visitor a sense of being in a larger garden space.
13. The CAI raised concerns regarding accessibility for wheelchair users due to the use of gravel inside the structure (a hard surface is required) and the limited “turning” space available.
14. Concerns were also raised with regards to the security of the piece overnight and its attractiveness as a place for rough sleeping, urination or “hiding”.
15. The size of the piece was also thought to be an issue and it was recommended that it be placed at the top of Peter’s Hill, opposite St Paul’s, given this location’s capacity to house a work of this scale.
16. The CAI recommends this proposal for approval, provided the piece is made accessible (a 1.5m x 1.5m platform of hard standing – not gravel – is required just inside the entrance so that wheelchair users can go inside and turn around); and that proper consideration is given to security concerns (24-hour security will be necessary). The preferred location is at the top of Peter’s Hill opposite St. Paul’s Cathedral.

London Festival of Architecture: G-Tainer

17. This installation is collaboration between G-SMATT Europe, London Festival of Architecture, the Royal Exchange and other partners. Its purpose is to display the latest technological innovations in ‘Smart Glass’ and ‘Digital Media Facades’ in an accessible and public space.
18. The proposal seeks to site a single-story ‘G-Tainer’ structure in the outside space at the rear of the Royal Exchange. Measuring 2.5m wide by 5m long, the black steel-framed and glazed structure will display specially-designed video media across its surface, with ‘stakeholders’ able to use the internal

space and to “display promotional, artistic and engaging content to communicate with those viewing from outside”.

19. The CAI voiced strong concerns regarding the media to be displayed on the structure, noting the no advertising regulations in the City and potential reputational risks. It was agreed that all content would need to be cleared with the City Corporation’s Media team in advance of upload.
20. Concerns were also raised over accessibility to the interior of the structure and the security of it overnight.
21. The CAI recommends this proposal for approval on the absolute proviso that digital content contains no advertising or promotion (this a legal requirement within the City’s streetscape) and that all content is cleared with the City Corporation’s Media team prior to upload, with turnaround times negotiated directly between parties. It also recommends that it is only approved if:
 - a. The internal space is closed to visitors unless 24-hour security is provided
 - b. The internal space (if open) is made accessible (that a ramp is built to provide step-free access with the revised footprint agreed with the City Corporation’s Highways team);
 - c. Manifestations on the glass are provided so that when no digital content is played, the screens are clearly seen.

London Festival of Architecture: A City of London Bench in Cheapside

22. In partnership with the London Festival of Architecture, the City Corporation and the Cheapside Business Alliance have been running a design competition for new (one-off) public benches. Images of previous winning designs for a project in Royal Docks were submitted as an indicative visual, however, the CAI have requested to see the winning design prior to its installation.
23. In considering this proposal, the CAI raised concerns over where the winning designs will be sited within the Cheapside footprint, with a recommendation being made that they only be installed after large-scale events planned in the first week of June are over.
24. A recommendation was also made that the City Corporation’s Public Highways team and TfL be involved in the final location decision to ensure no obstruction is created for existing users of the space.
25. Concerns were also raised over the bench(es) becoming permanent fixture(s) as was suggested in the proposal, noting that their suitability to the space(s), ownership, maintenance and liability would all need more careful consideration in such a scenario.
26. The CAI recommends that this proposal be approved in principle for the period of the festival in June only provided it is installed after 3 June 2018 at Royal Exchange and is not obstructing exits from the Underground station;

and after 9 June at other locations if sought (to ensure major, pre-planned events are not affected). The CAI also recommends that:

- a. The final designs are submitted to CAI once agreed;
- b. The exact locations are agreed with the City Corporation's Public Highways team and TfL;
- c. The Cheapside Business Alliance indemnify the City for the bench(es) assuming all liability in the case of accident or injury (insurance documents to be evidenced);
- d. A separate planning application is submitted for the bench(es) to remain in-situ beyond the period of the festival (June 2018).

London Festival of Architecture: Alex Scott-Whitby, *St. Paul's Reflection*

27. This proposal uses a trapezoidal contemporary gateway structure to create a mirrored image of St Paul's Cathedral as pedestrians arrive out of St Paul's Underground Station. Its proposed location is in the pocket park space at the western end of One New Change.
28. The work is made using over 400 highly reflective steel or anodised aluminium poles suspended vertically from a simple light weight structural canopy; at the middle of the structure is a domed oculus taking its inspiration from the geometry of St Paul's Cathedral's double-domed construction.
29. The work is an innovative architectural and structural solution by a team of emerging architects and urban designers (ScottWhitbyStudio) and the team behind some of London's most experimental (and successful) artistic interventions including the Serpentine Pavilions (Arup).
30. The timing and proposed location for this installation pose an issue for a pre-planned, large-scale event (London Nocturne) which occurs during the first week of June; the CAI therefore recommends that this may only be installed after 9 June 2018 (or before it and removed by the 8 June).
31. From drawings provided and meetings held with the applicants, it has been identified that one of the supports is to be placed into an existing planter; this would need permission from City Gardens team who were unable to attend the CAI meeting this month.
32. Concerns were raised that this proposal suggests the installation becomes a permanent structure. It was noted that its suitability for the site, ownership issues, maintenance and liability would all need closer consideration in such a scenario.
33. The CAI recommends that this proposal be approved for the period of the festival in June only provided that it is either installed after the major event on Saturday 9 June (so from Sunday 10 June), or that it is installed for one week prior, then removed on Friday 8 June and reinstalled from Sunday 10 June. The CAI also recommends that:

- a. Approval is subject to the City Gardens team approving use of their planter to support the structure;
- b. A separate planning application is submitted for consideration by the District Surveyor for the piece to remain in-situ beyond the period of the festival (June 2018).

Contemporary Art Society: Michael Landy, Humanitarian Aid Memorial

34. The CAI received a proposal from the Contemporary Art Society and the Humanitarian Aid Memorial Steering Group to place a permanent memorial, designed by an established artist, in one of the City's Gardens.
35. The proposed work is designed as a robust piece of street furniture built from stainless steel sub-frames welded together and clad in colourfast, weather and vandal-proof vitreous enamel.
36. It was agreed that the subject and contemplative nature of the proposal would sit well within the proposed location of Postman's Park although concerns were raised by the City Gardens team after the CAI meeting regarding its scale and thus suitability for this, or any City Garden space.
37. Because the proposal is for the work to be situated in a grassed area, it would not require any adaptations for accessibility. If it were to be sited in a paved area, it would need to rest on a plinth.
38. The CAI recommended that this proposal be approved subject to an officer from the City Gardens team working with the applicant to identify a suitable location within a City Garden and subject to planning permission being granted. Since the CAI meeting, the City Gardens team have recommended that the application be declined because of its size and thus unsuitability to the City's small gardens and churchyards. The recommendation is therefore amended to application declined

Corporate & Strategic Implications

39. 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

40. This report summarises the discussions of the City Arts Initiative and presents recommendations in relation to the public art applications considered on 19 April 2018.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: visual representations of proposals received by the CAI on 19 April 2018

Background Papers

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

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