

Committee: Planning and Transportation	Date: 26 July 2018
Subject: Bridging Home (London) 2018: city walkway installation and temporary public access restriction	Public
Report of: The Director of the Built Environment	For Decision
Report Author: Craig. Stansfield	
<p style="text-align: center;">Summary</p> <p>Bridging Home (London) 2018 is a proposed artwork within the Sculpture in the City programme. The artwork is a proposed architectural installation by Do Ho Suh that represents the artist's childhood home, a hanok-style traditional Korean house. The artwork is proposed to be installed on the little-used city walkway bridge over Wormwood Street, EC2. It is proposed to temporarily close the city walkway bridge to the public to allow the artwork to be safely installed and displayed.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>I recommend that your Committee:—</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Authorize the placing of the Bridging Home (London) 2018 artwork on the Wormwood Street city walkway bridge. 2. Delegate to the Assistant Director (City Public Realm) authority to restrict public access to the city walkway bridge for a period of up to three months in order to allow the artwork to be safely installed and displayed. 	

Main Report

Background

1. Bridging Home (London) 2018 is the working title of a proposed artwork within the Sculpture in the City programme. The artwork is a proposed architectural installation by Do Ho Suh that represents the artist's childhood home, a hanok-style traditional Korean house with a garden, which would contrast with the architecture of the City of London. The artwork is proposed to be installed on the little-used city walkway bridge over Wormwood Street, which is the site that the artist personally selected for the proposed installation when invited to consider an installation for Sculpture in the City.
2. Do Ho Suh's commission would respond to the architecture of the City of London in line with his artistic approach. Suh creates architecturally scaled installations that are informed by his personal experiences and that recreate

specific domestic spaces where he has lived, including his childhood home, a house in Rhode Island where he lived as a student and his apartment in New York City. The installation coincides with the end of the United Kingdom–Korea Year of Culture 2017–2018 and would be the artist’s first large-scale outdoor installation in London.

3. The artwork is a co-commission between Sculpture in the City and Art Night with additional funding coming from a variety of partners and sponsors including the Arts Council Korea, the Korean Cultural Centre UK, Victoria Miro, Lehmann Maupin and Outset Contemporary Art Fund.
4. Planning permission for the artwork was granted under delegated authority, there being no objections, on 28 December 2017, under reference 17/01091/FULLR3. The permission is subject to a condition that the artwork be taken down on or before 31 March 2019 (condition 2).
5. The artwork has been assessed by the City’s highway structures engineers and approval has been given to the design as being acceptable for installation on the city walkway bridge.

Current Position

6. Section 18(1) of the City of London (Various Powers) Act 1967 (“the Act”) empowers the City to “place and maintain in or over a city walkway, or any part thereof anything for the use, convenience or entertainment of members of the public, or otherwise for the benefit of the public, or for the improvement of amenities, or for decorative purposes, and may use any part of a city walkway temporarily for the purpose of any exhibition or entertainment”. This report asks your Committee to make use of this power to authorize the placing of the Bridging Home (London) 2018 artwork on the Wormwood Street city walkway bridge.
7. It would be desirable to restrict public access to the city walkway bridge while the artwork is in place to reduce the risk of unnecessary damage to the artwork, given the evidence of anti-social behaviour in this location. The artist has also created the artwork to be seen from a distance rather than in close proximity.
8. The city walkway bridge is one of the remaining parts of the city walkway network that formerly extended through the buildings to the north and south of Wormwood Street but that now, as a result of building redevelopment, solely provides access between some of the first-floor fire escapes of 26 Wormwood Street and of Broad Street House (52–55 Old Broad Street and 27–34 Wormwood Street) to the north of Wormwood Street and the stairs providing egress onto the southern footway of Wormwood Street. It is proposed to install a one-way door on the southern side of the city walkway bridge which would allow persons using the escape route over the city walkway bridge from 26 Wormwood Street and from Broad Street House to exit but that would prevent persons from entering onto the city walkway bridge from the south while the artwork is in place.

9. Section 11A(1) of the Act provides that “If the Corporation are satisfied that pedestrian access along a city walkway should be restricted or prohibited, by reason that works are being or are proposed to be executed on, in or near the walkway, or by reason of the likelihood of danger to the public, they may by notice restrict or prohibit temporarily the use of the walkway, or any part, to such extent and subject to such conditions or exceptions as they consider necessary”. This report asks your Committee to delegate to the Assistant Director (City Public Realm) authority to restrict public access to the city walkway bridge in order to allow the artwork to be safely installed and displayed.
10. Section 11A(2) of the Act requires that “A copy of any notice under subsection (1) above shall while the notice is in force be posted in a conspicuous position at either end of ... the length of the walkway to which the notices relates” and this notice would therefore be given during the period of closure.
11. Section 11A(3) of the Act requires that the closure period may not continue in force for more than three months and therefore the artwork would be removed and the city walkway bridge reopened no later than three months after its installation unless your Committee decides to proceed as outlined in the “Future Options” section *below*. The artwork is scheduled for installation in mid-September 2018.

Future Options

12. The remaining city walkway at Wormwood Street, including the city walkway bridge, is a stub city walkway that receives extremely little public use as it does not provide access to any public place, but only to the fire escapes of the buildings that front onto it. Most of the city walkway network that it once formed part of was discontinued to allow for the redevelopment of the buildings that it once passed through and this stub section would also have been discontinued at the same time if it was not required for fire egress purposes. However, as the city walkway is a stub that does not provide access to any public place, and it therefore receives extremely little public use, it has long suffered from rough sleeping, street fouling, littering and other antisocial behaviour, and officers from the Department of Community and Children’s Services and the Department of the Built Environment are investigating with the various building owners who rely on the stub city walkway for fire egress whether it could similarly be discontinued and replaced by some binding private arrangements for mutual fire and emergency egress over each other’s property. If agreement in principle on this can be reached among the various building owners, a report would be brought to your Committee so that your Committee can consider whether or not the stub city walkway should be discontinued.
13. If it proves possible and your Committee, having considered that report, does resolve to discontinue the stub city walkway, the artwork could remain in place for an extended period (but not longer than 31 March 2019) as the bridge would then be able to be secured as a City-owned private structure.

Corporate and Strategic Implications

14. The Sculpture in the City programme supports the *Corporate Plan 2018–23* aim to shape outstanding environments through inspiring enterprise, excellence, creativity and collaboration. The programme also supports the objective in the Department of the Built Environment's business plan to improve the quality of life for workers, residents and visitors.

Implications

15. There would be a cost involved in providing the one-way door to secure the city walkway bridge and in giving notice of the temporary closure, but these costs would be minor and could be contained within the Sculpture in the City programme budget.

Conclusion

16. This report asks your Committee to authorize the placing of the Bridging Home (London) 2018 artwork on the Wormwood Street city walkway bridge and to delegate to the Assistant Director (City Public Realm) authority to restrict public access to the city walkway bridge for a period up to three months to allow the artwork to be safely installed and displayed.

Appendices

None

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