

Committee(s)	Dated:
Culture, Heritage and Libraries – For Decision	25/03/2019
Subject: City Arts Initiative: recommendations to the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee	Public
Report of: Peter Lisley – Director of Major Projects	For Decision
Report author: Nick Bodger, Cultural and Visitor Development Director	

Summary

This report presents the recommendations of the City Arts Initiative (CAI) which met on 12 December 2018. At this meeting, no public art applications were submitted for the group's consideration. However, the following question, referred by your Committee in October 2018 to the CAI, was discussed:

Should further requests for funding be endorsed by your Committee in support of the statues of Sylvia Pankhurst (Clerkenwell) and Mary Wollstonecraft (Newington Green), noting a recommendation to support would result in a bid being taken forward to your Policy and Resources Committee.

Following the motion passed at Court of Common Council in June of this year for the commissioning of an appropriate City-sited artwork highlighting the achievements of women (a proposal your Committee has tasked the CAI to develop); the CAI recommends that no further funding be given to either of the above-mentioned statues as both fall outside of the City's boundaries and so do not specifically advance the objective to better recognise women within the City's own public realm.

Furthermore, noting the many cultural priorities with a call on City Corporation funding at present and a fuller understanding of the potentially significant cost of the commission and its installation, the CAI strongly urges Members to award any available funds for public art and/or the recognition of women to the Court proposal when this is fully developed and presented (anticipated by end 2019).

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Ratify the City Arts Initiative's recommendations to decline endorsing further funding requests for the statues of Sylvia Pankhurst and Mary Wollstonecraft.

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. At your Committee in May 2018, Members confirmed that those occupying the roles of Chairman and Deputy Chairman on the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee and the Chairman of the Sculpture in the City Partner Board should have permanent seats on the City Arts Initiative. Your Committee also elected Mrs Barbara Newman and Mr Jeremy Simons to serve on the CAI for the 2018/19 committee year.
3. Apart from officer time handling enquiries and managing the installations, there are no resource implications other than where specifically noted.
4. At the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee (CHL) meeting on 22 October 2018, your Committee considered two requests for funding. They were for a Sylvia Pankhurst statue to be located in Farringdon (which has already received a grant of £10,000 from the City Corporation) and for a statue of Mary Wollstonecraft to be located in Newington Green.
5. Members referred the requests to the CAI requesting it bring a recommendation back to your Committee after it had fully considered the Court of Common Council motion passed in June of this year (to develop a proposal for an appropriate City-sited artwork highlighting the achievements of women) which your Committee also referred to the CAI in October last year.

Current Position

6. A sub-group of the CAI was formed in November 2018 to consider the Court motion. Its inaugural meeting will take place on 28 January 2019.
7. Chaired by your Deputy Chairman, those invited to be part of the group are recognised visual arts, architectural, public realm, heritage, women's rights and logistics experts, including the Co-Director of Sculpture in the City, the Head of Visual Arts at Barbican, the Director of Artichoke, the Director of the Illuminated River Foundation, the Chief Executive of the Fawcett Society, the Director of Museum of London, the Mayor of London's Senior Manager for Cultural Infrastructure and Public Realm, the City Corporation's Cultural and Visitor Development Director, its Assistant Director (Environmental Enhancement), Head of Guildhall Galleries, and Traffic Manager, and CHL Members Anne Fairweather and Jeremy Simons.
8. Acknowledging that the CHL Committee request to the CAI was to consider the Pankhurst and Wollstonecraft statue applications following deliberation over the City-based commission, the enthusiasm of the statues' supporters for

an immediate in-principle pledge and the CAI's concern that the commission be considered independently to ensure the best outcome for the City has necessitated early assessment of the two funding requests. The issue was therefore considered at the CAI's meeting on 12 December 2018.

Proposals

Recommendation for funding for statues of Sylvia Pankhurst and Mary Wollstonecraft:

9. The CAI recommends that, in view of the proposed commission currently under consideration by the newly-appointed, expert sub-group of the CAI described above, no further funding be given to either of the above-mentioned statues as both fall outside of the City's boundaries and so do not specifically advance the objective to better recognise women within the City's public realm.
10. Furthermore, noting the many cultural priorities with a call on City Corporation funding at present and a fuller understanding of the potentially significant cost of the commission and its installation, the CAI strongly urges your Committee to endorse the award of any available funds for public art and/or the recognition of women to the new proposal when this is fully developed and presented (anticipated by end 2019).

Corporate & Strategic Implications

11. The City Arts Initiative was formed to support the City's management of public art which, in turn, supports the delivery of the City's Cultural and Visitor Strategies.
12. The delivery of a solution that better recognises the achievements of women within the City's public realm aligns with the City Corporation's Corporate Plan's aim to "contribute to a flourishing society" specifically fulfilling the outcome "people have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential" in that it will help us to "promote and champion diversity, inclusion and the removal of institutional barriers and structural inequalities".
13. While support of the Sylvia Pankhurst and Mary Wollstonecraft statues would also do this and fulfil our supporting London agenda, it was felt that there is a greater need to redress the lack of recognition of women within the City's own public realm first.
14. It should be noted that support of the statues in Clerkenwell and Newington Green – while laudable – would make less of a statement about the City Corporation's commitment to equality and inclusion than an installation located within the City itself, and that, furthermore, funding of the Pankhurst and Wollstonecraft statues would, inevitably, detract from any investment that may be made in a City-sited proposal.

Conclusion

15. This report summarises the discussions of the City Arts Initiative on 12 December 2018 and presents recommendations in relation to the question referred to the CAI by your Committee on 22 October last year.
16. It recommends that no further funding is awarded to the Sylvia Pankhurst statue to be sited in Clerkenwell and that no funding is awarded to the Mary Wollstonecraft statue in Newington Green because this will detract (in investment terms) from the City Corporation's commitment to better recognise women within the City's public realm – a proposal for which is currently being developed by an expert sub-group of the City Arts Initiative.

Appendices

- None submitted

Background Papers

- Statue recognising the Role of Women in the City; report of the Town Clerk to the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee on 22 October 2018

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