

Committee(s)	Dated:
Culture, Heritage and Libraries – For Decision	23/03/2020
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 13 February 2020. At this meeting, the CAI considered public art proposals 1 - 5 (below):

- 1. Festival of Architecture – Benches:** approval for six benches to be installed in June in the Cheapside footprint;
- 2. London Festival of Architecture – St Paul’s Plinth:** approval for the installation of new artwork within the existing frame at St Paul’s station;
- 3. London Festival of Architecture – Power Walks:** approval for the shortlisted artworks as part of a new wayfinding system;
- 4. Sculpture in the City:** approval for the new additions to the longlist for Sculpture in the City’s tenth edition;
- 5. Three Quays Walk:** comment on a new art installation sited on the bank of Three Quay’s Walk as part of a private development at that location.

Recommendation(s)

Members of the Culture Heritage and Libraries Committee are asked to:

- Ratify the City Arts Initiative’s recommendations in relation to proposal 1-4 above as follows:
 - **London Festival of Architecture – Benches:** approve subject to final consent from the Highways and City Gardens teams;
 - **London Festival of Architecture – St Paul’s Plinth:** approve subject to final consent from Planning and Engineering teams;
 - **London Festival of Architecture – Power Walks:** approve the shortlist subject to final consent from Planning and Highways and subject to the nominated CAI representative being consulted during the decision process.
 - **Sculpture in the City:** approve the new updated artworks in principle and subject to necessary permissions and licences from Highways and Planning, as well as consent from the Director of Communications.

- Note the application for **Three Quays Walk** acknowledging that the CAI may only comment and not recommend, and that your Committee may not approve or decline applications for public art on private land.

Main Report

Background

1. The City Arts Initiative (CAI) 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. The CAI comprises elected Members drawn from your Committee and relevant officers across Planning, Highways, Open Spaces, and Cultural and Visitor Development, as well as those with specific expertise in the visual arts.
3. At your Committee in May 2019, 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 2019/20 committee year.
4. Apart from officer time handling enquiries and managing the installations, there are no resource implications other than where specifically noted.

Current Position

5. The CAI met on 13 February 2020 to consider the proposals outlined below.
6. Full-colour visual representations of the proposed artworks are circulated electronically with this report and are available in appendixes 1, 2, and 3. Full details of all the applications to the CAI are available on request from the Director of Major Projects.

Proposals

London Festival of Architecture – Benches:

7. The CAI received a proposal for six benches to be sited within the Cheapside footprint in June as part of the London Festival of Architecture.
8. Following the success of the City benches project in 2018 and 2019, the LFA and the Cheapside Business Alliance (CBA) ran another design competition, inviting architecture and design students, recent graduates and emerging practices from across London to submit a bench design to enliven the public realm of the Cheapside area.

9. The six winners were selected by a panel of experts:
 - a. *Thames Bench*, an artwork by design studio UpCircle which is inspired by the shape of the River Thames;
 - b. *Look Up*, an artwork by Oli Colman Studio, which is inspired by the sights of London;
 - c. *A Pineapple for London* by design studio, HAC, inspired by St Paul's Cathedral;
 - d. *Chim Chim* by architecture studio, Profferlo;
 - e. *A Game of Moans* by RCA design graduate, Iain Jamieson;
 - f. *X* from Jason Slabbynk (please note that this bench has a working title as it will be named after the map coordinates where it is positioned in the City).
10. LFA have identified five locations for the project and have worked at all sites previously. One of the sites can accommodate two benches. Sites and designs have also been approved in principle by your Highways team:
 - a. In front of Royal Exchange
 - b. Bloomberg Arcade (private land)
 - c. Bow Church Yard (where it is possible to accommodate 2 benches)
 - d. Cheapside Sunken Garden
 - e. In front of 150 Cheapside
11. Please see the appended document for designs (Appendix 1). The location of each bench is to be agreed by landowners with input from Highways and City Gardens (when relevant).
12. The project is funded by the Cheapside Business Alliance.
13. **The CAI recommends that this proposal be approved in principle subject to further consultation with your City Gardens (as relevant), Highways and Access teams.**

London Festival of Architecture – St Paul's Plinth

14. The CAI received a proposal for a new installation within the existing metal frame on the traffic island at St Paul's station as part of the London Festival of Architecture (LFA).
15. This year's installation is *Rose*, by Nick Tyrer and Umut Baykan. *Rose* is a modern interpretation of one of St Paul's Cathedral's old, much celebrated stained-glass window that was lost in the Great Fire of London.
16. The temporary installation is made of colourful plastic panels that spiral overhead casting colourful shadows onto the pedestrians on the pavement.
17. The drawings and the risk assessment documents will be checked by your Department for the Built Environment to ensure feasibility and that all health and safety measures are met.

18. To coincide with the LFA, the applicants are proposing the project to be installed in late May, ahead of the 2020 festival (1-30 June).
19. The intent is for the installation to be on site for approximately 12 months being replaced by next year's iteration of the St Paul's Plinth installation.
20. The installation is funded by Cheapside Business Alliance who have approved the design.
21. **The CAI recommended that this proposal be approved subject to final consent from Planning and Highways and the following recommendation:**
 - a. **That the applicant notes scheduled gas works for this area and liaises closely with Built Environment teams to ensure that the installation dates align with this programme.**

London Festival of Architecture – Power Walks:

22. The CAI received an application from the London Festival of Architecture (LFA) to install new wayfinding installations within the City Cluster Area.
23. Following the success of the City Parklets project in 2019, the LFA and the City Corporation Public Realm team ran a design competition earlier this year which sought to commission up to two public realm interventions that will improve the pedestrian routes and experience within the City Cluster area.
24. Architects, designers and artists were invited to submit a design proposal for a series of on-street interventions that will create alternative and improved journeys for workers and visitors to follow.
25. The judging panel consisted of City Corporation officers from your Department for Built Environment, as well as visual design experts.
26. The CAI received the five shortlisted entries from the first round of submissions:
 - a. *Picnic Walk* by Chao Gao and Rūta Paškevičiūtė
 - b. *Empowered Perspectives* by HAC
 - c. *Knowledge is Power* by Projects Office
 - d. *Orange Route, Pink Route and Yellow Route* by Upcircle
 - e. *Wild Goose Chase* by Patrick McEvoy
27. A variety of potential routes and locations across the City Cluster have been identified for the project. These are areas where there is significant scope for public realm enhancement and higher pedestrian flows.
28. Full visuals and proposed locations can be found in Appendix 1.

29. Officers from your Built Environment and Open Spaces departments are supportive of the shortlist and will be part of the final selection process for the winner(s).
30. The project is funded by the City Corporation's City Cluster Vision budget, which is approved by Streets and Walkways Sub and Projects Sub Committees.
31. To coincide with London Festival of Architecture, the applicants are proposing the installation of the project in late May. The aspiration is that the project stays in place for a minimum of 12 months.
32. **The CAI recommended this application for approval subject to ongoing consultation and sign off from relevant Planning and Highways teams, as well as the following recommendation:**
 - a. **That the CAI is represented at the second-round interview to ensure alignment with wayfinding plans for Sculpture in the City.**

Sculpture in the City – Tenth Edition update

33. The CAI received a presentation featuring five new additions to the longlisted artworks for *Sculpture in the City's* tenth edition.
34. The update comprises of new five works with visuals of these provided separately from the other applications in this report in Appendix 2.
35. The applicant has advised that these new additions sought to increase the diversity of the artists being represented at Sculpture in the City during its tenth year.
36. It should be noted that the final installed exhibition may not include the full list. The final works for installation will be selected based on their technical feasibility and through negotiations with landowners on locations.
37. The longlist is reviewed by City Highways and Planning teams on an ongoing basis to ensure it meets the City's technical, planning and access requirements. The project team will continue to consult the relevant internal teams as and when locations for the artworks are determined.
38. All artworks will also be given clearance by the Director of Communications.
39. The project is funded by the City Corporation in partnership with local businesses, largely in the Eastern City Cluster area. The City Corporation's contribution derives from the DBE Local Risk Budget approved by the Planning and Transportation Committee.

40. The CAI agreed that all artworks were appropriate and congratulated Sculpture in the City on another diverse and strong selection of artworks.
41. **The CAI recommends that the new additions to the longlist be approved in principle subject to necessary permissions and licences from Highways and Planning teams and City Gardens (as relevant). All artworks will also be subject to consent from the Director of Communications.**

Three Quays Walk

42. The CAI received an application for a new installation at Three Quays Walk as part of a private development.
43. The proposed installation is an artwork entitled *Thames River Perch* by sculptor Simon Probyn. The artwork is inspired by the shape of a fish and the structure allows for the view of the Thames to be seen and viewed in a new way both through and around the sculpture.
44. Planning officers consider the proposed artwork to be appropriate in terms of size, siting, and impact on surrounding views. It would be sited on an existing raised planter on private land associated with the Three Quays development.
45. **The CAI may comment on, but not recommend, and your Committee may not approve or decline applications for public art on private land. This application is for informational purposes only and is subject to standard planning application procedures.**

Corporate & Strategic Implications

46. 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

47. This report summarises the discussions of the City Arts Initiative and presents recommendations in relation to the public art applications considered on 13 February 2020.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: LFA Images, 13 Feb 2020
- Appendix 2: Sculpture in the City images, 13 Feb 2020
- Appendix 3: Three Quays Walk – 13 Feb 2020

Background Papers

Full details of the applications received by the City Arts Initiative are available on request from the Director of Major Projects.

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