

Committee(s)	Dated:
Culture, Heritage and Libraries – For Decision	19 July 2021
Subject: City Arts Initiative: recommendations to the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	3, 7 and 10
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Damian Nussbaum, Director of Innovation and Growth	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 10 June 2021. At this meeting, the CAI considered the public art proposals as follows:

1. **City of London Corporation - Festival Garden Entrance Sculptures**
2. **Westbrook Gallery – Lions Trail 2021**
3. **Natalie Robinson - Reflection (Totally Thames)**
4. **DP9 – The Garden of Floating Words**
5. **Keats Foundation - Keats Memorial Bust**
6. **Culture Mile and Brookfield - Play Totems**

Recommendation(s)

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

- Ratify the City Arts Initiative's recommendations in relation to proposals 1 - 5 above as follows:
 - **City of London Corporation - Festival Garden Entrance Sculptures:** approve subject to planning permission, access

requirements being met, and a sufficient maintenance fund being established.

- **Westbrook Gallery – Lions Trail 2021:** approve subject to final permissions being granted by Highways and relevant public liability insurance being put in place by the applicant.
 - **Natalie Robinson - Reflection (Totally Thames):** approve subject to relevant authorisations being granted from officers managing Walbrook Wharf and the additional recommendations outlined below.
 - **DP9 – The Garden of Floating Words:** approve subject to maintenance being funded by the owners of the sculpture.
 - **Keats Foundation - Keats Memorial Bust:** approve in principle subject to final designs being approved by delegated authority and a satisfactory maintenance fund being raised by the applicants.
- Approve the City Art Initiative's recommendation in relation to proposal 6:
 - **Culture Mile and Brookfield – Play Totems:** noting that the application is privately funded and will likely be installed on private land and would therefore not require your Committee's approval but, delegating authority to the CAI to approve final visuals should any part of the installation appear on the public highway.

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 including some from external organisations.
3. At your Committee in June 2021, Members reconfirmed 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 (CAI). Your Committee also elected Barbara Newman and Dawn Wright to serve on the CAI for the 2021/22 committee year, noting that previous incumbents occupying these roles – Tom Sleight and Judith Pleasance – considered the proposals presented in this report.

4. All applications are funded by external sources unless otherwise stated. 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 10 June 2021 to consider the proposals outlined below.
6. Further background information and visuals are circulated electronically with this report and are available in appendix 1. Full details of all the applications to the CAI are available on request from the Director of Innovation and Growth.

Proposals

City of London Corporation – Festival Gardens Entrance Sculptures

7. The CAI received a proposal from officers in your Department of the Built Environment (DBE) for permanent sculptures to be placed at the entrance steps of Festival Gardens.
8. The sculptures were designed by Tom Clark-Collins and chosen as part of a competition run by the City's Public Realm team working with the City and Guilds Historic Carving course. They are funded through the St Paul's Churchyard public realm project, as part of an initiative run by the City Public Realm team, which aims to mitigate the impact of conflicts caused by skateboarding in the local area.
9. **The CAI recommended this application be approved subject to Planning permission being granted, accessibility guidance being incorporated, and a satisfactory maintenance endowment being secured.**

Westbrook Gallery – Lions Trail 2021

10. The CAI received an application from Westbrook Gallery on behalf of Tusk Trust, for an installation of a lion outside Royal Exchange on a temporary basis during August and September 2021.
11. Following the success of Tusk Trust's 2018 Rhino Trail, the charity has decided to launch an international sculpture trail to raise awareness of the plight of lions in the wild. The format of this artwork trail is a tried and tested formula, with the City having hosting previous iterations (eg the Rhino Trail).
12. The location has been agreed in principle between the applicants, the sculpture's corporate sponsor, and officers in Highways.
13. **The CAI recommended the application be approved subject to permissions from Highways and relevant public liability insurance being**

arranged by the applicants.

Natalie Robinson – Reflection (Totally Thames)

14. The CAI received an application by artist Natalie Robinson for a series of artworks to be installed on a temporary basis at Walbrook Wharf.
15. The proposal is for a series of photographs inspired by the lost river of Walbrook and is programmed to coincide with the *Totally Thames* festival from 1-30 September 2021.
16. The photographs will take the form of eight large panels, attached to the railings along the operational area of Walbrook Wharf, adjacent to the public footpath. The CAI advised that these panels would need to be able to withstand changing climatic conditions.
17. **The CAI recommended this application be approved subject to authorisations from officers managing the Walbrook Wharf, as well as the landowner of the operational area adjacent to railings. The CAI also requested that the materials used for artworks are suitable for range of climatic conditions.**

DP9- The Garden of Floating Words

18. The CAI received an application for the permanent retention of the sculpture *The Garden of Floating Words* by Elisa Artesero, which was originally installed on a temporary basis as part of *Sculpture in the City*.
19. The artwork was purchased by Nuveen and it has been proposed the artwork remain in the central planter in front of 60-70 St Mary Axe building (70SMA).
20. A monthly visual inspection and light clean of the artwork is funded by 70SMA and will be conducted by a conservator.
21. **The CAI recommended this application be approved subject to planning permission and all maintenance costs being met by the owner including – should the artwork fall in disrepair – the cost of its removal.**

Keats Foundation – Keats Memorial Bust

22. The CAI received an application for the permanent installation of a head and shoulders bust of John Keats in recognition of his contribution to English literature on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of his death.
23. It is proposed that the bust be located at the north-western corner of the junction of London Wall and Moorgate, which is approximately 100 metres

from where John Keats was born.

24. The CAI noted that there were no artwork designs or scale drawings available but that a design competition is planned by the Keats Foundation. It is therefore recommended that members of the CAI are involved in the judging process. Any final design will need to be approved by the CAI under delegated authority from your Committee.
25. Officers in the City Surveyor's Department have also advised that an endowment of £10,000 will be required from the applicants to ensure long-term maintenance of the sculpture.
- 26. The CAI recommended this application be approved in principle subject to:**
- **Planning permission being granted**
 - **Final approval of the artwork being given by CAI**
 - **Selected members of the CAI sitting on the panel for the design competition to assist with development of designs and selection of artist(s)**
 - **The decision on final location being agreed between relevant officers in DBE and the applicant, noting the impact of Crossrail on the current proposed area**
 - **An endowment of £10,000 is provided by the applicant to fund maintenance of the artwork**
 - **The Foundation recognising that approval is 'in principle' and cannot be confirmed until the exact location, design and final context for the bust are known.**

Culture Mile and Brookfield – Play

27. The CAI received an application from Culture Mile and Brookfield Properties for the installation of four physical totems to be installed in and around London Wall Place Gardens, on a temporary basis in August and September 2021.
28. The Totems will serve as physical signposts for online content as part of an augmented reality project led by Guildhall Live Events which features commissions from students at Guildhall School of Music & Drama. The project will encourage the public to explore London Wall Place bringing to life four specific areas with augmented reality overlaid visuals, accessible via smart devices.
- 29. The final locations are still to be confirmed however these may all be on private land and therefore Members are asked to note the application. Should any of the installations be proposed on public land, then the CAI requests delegated authority to approve final artworks in consultation with relevant departments, including Highways and Open Spaces.**

Corporate & Strategic Implications

30. 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

31. This report summarises the discussions of the City Arts Initiative and presents recommendations in relation to the public art applications considered on 10 June 2021.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: CAI Application Notes and Images, 10 June 2021

Background Papers

Full details of the applications received by the City Arts Initiative are available on request from the Director of Innovation and Growth.

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