

Committee(s)	Dated:
Culture, Heritage and Libraries – For Decision	13 December 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 23 September 2021. At this meeting, the CAI considered the following public art proposals:

- Sculpture in the City – Aldgate Square Commissions
- Whizz Kids – Morph’s Epic Adventure in London

Recommendation(s)

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

- Ratify the City Arts Initiative’s recommendations in relation to the proposals above as follows:
 - **Sculpture in the City – Aldgate Square Commissions:** approve subject to ongoing consultation and permissions from Highways and Planning.
 - **Whizz Kids – Morph’s Epic Adventure in London:** approve in principle subject to ongoing consultation with Environment, suitable locations being identified, and access guidance being incorporated.

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 on proposals for new public art. Included in its remit is the maintenance of the City's existing public art and decommissioning.
2. The CAI comprises elected Members drawn from your Committee and relevant officers across Planning, Highways, and Open Spaces. Officers with specific expertise in the visual arts are also included.
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 should have permanent seats on the CAI. They also reconfirmed the permanent seat for the Chair of the Sculpture in the City Partner Board. Your Committee also elected Barbara Newman and Dawn Wright to serve for the 2021/22 committee year.
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 23 September 2021 to consider the proposals outlined below.
6. Further background information is circulated electronically with this report and is 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

Sculpture in the City – Aldgate Commissions

7. The CAI received an application from Sculpture in the City for two temporary installations on Aldgate Square, scheduled for May 2022 and May 2023.
8. The Aldgate Square Commission is a new biannual commission supporting emerging artists in the UK. It is delivered in partnership with Aldgate Connect BID and the City Corporation's Outdoor Arts Programme.
9. Twelve artists nominated by members of the Sculpture in the City Arts Advisory Group were invited to submit a proposal for a temporary site-specific public artwork for Aldgate Square. The proposals needed to consider the cultural and historical significance of the local area.

10. Following the first round of submissions, the Arts Advisory Group shortlisted five artists, who developed their proposals through a series of community workshops with residents in June 2021.
11. Two artworks have now been selected as the winning entries:
 - a. *Earthing* by Jocelyn Mcregor, scheduled to be installed in May 2022
 - b. *Guardian* by Emii Alrai, scheduled to be installed in May 2023
12. It is proposed that both artworks will be in situ for 12 months.
13. Further information on both artworks can be found in appendix 1.
14. Sculpture in the City has a successful track record of delivering public art in partnership with City Corporation teams.
15. **The CAI recommended this application be approved subject to permissions and ongoing consultation with Highways and Planning.**

Whizz-Kids - Morph's Epic Adventure in London

16. The CAI received an application for a sculpture trail in the City from June 2023 – August 2023.
17. The application was submitted by Whizz-Kidz, the UK's leading charity for young wheelchair users.
18. The charity has been working with Wild in Art, an organisation with experience of delivering art trails across London.
19. They are aiming to have up to 70 sculptures of children's character 'Morph' across Central London for the public to enjoy. The trail will raise awareness of their work and educate audiences about accessibility and inclusion.
20. All sculptures will be individually decorated by well-known artists and celebrities. An example visual can be found in appendix 1.
21. The trail will be funded by corporate sponsors.
22. The applicant is currently identifying locations across different central London boroughs. Locations in the City are yet to be identified. However, the applicant has agreed to work closely with officers in Environment to identify suitable, fully accessible locations.
23. The CAI advised that all identified locations in the City need to be wheelchair accessible. The City Corporation's Access Team will also advise on the

suitability of sculptures at each location.

24. The CAI recommended this application be approved in principle subject to fully accessible locations being identified by your Department of the Environment and:

- a. Planning permission being granted**
- b. Ongoing consultation and permissions are achieved from teams across Planning, Highways, City Gardens and Transport**
- c. Accessibility guidance being incorporated**

Corporate & Strategic Implications

25. 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

26. This report summarises the discussions of the City Arts Initiative. It presents recommendations in relation to the public art applications considered on 23 September 2021.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: CAI Application Notes and Images, 23 September 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.

Nick Bodger

Cultural and Visitor Development Director

T: 020 7332 3263

E: Nick.Bodger@cityoflondon.gov.uk