

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
<b>Culture, Heritage and Libraries – For Decision</b>	31 January 2022
<b>Subject:</b> City Arts Initiative: recommendations to the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	<b>3, 7 and 10</b>
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	N
<b>If so, how much?</b>	N/A
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	N/A
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?</b>	N/A
<b>Report of:</b> Damian Nussbaum, Director of Innovation and Growth	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Nick Bodger, Cultural and Visitor Development Director	

### Summary

This report presents the recommendations of the City Arts Initiative (CAI) which met on 26 November 2021 and 13 January 2022. At these meetings, the CAI considered the following public art proposals:

- **The World Reimagined – City of London Trail**
- **Asphalt Arts – updated artworks for new locations in the City**

### 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:
  - **The World Reimagined – City of London Trail:** approve subject to feasible locations being identified, as well as ongoing engagement and permissions from Highways and Planning.

- **Asphalt Arts – updated artworks for new locations in the City:** approve subject to agreement from land and/or building owners and the City of London Access Group (COLAG), as well as Planning.

## **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 26 November 2021 and 13 January 2022 to consider the proposals outlined below.
6. Further background information is 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**

#### **The World Reimagined – City of London Trail**

7. The CAI received an application from *The World Reimagined* for a trail of 10 large Globe Sculptures in the Square Mile from the 13 August to 16 October 2022.
8. *The World Reimagined* is a large scale, arts education project, striving to transform how the public understands the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Further information on the programme can be found in Appendix 1. The project aligns with diversity and inclusion themes in the City Corporation's recovery strategy

[Square Mile: Future City](#) and with the new Strategic Destination Review, approved by your Committee in December 2021.

9. The City of London will be the only area in London to host the trail, joining another eight cities across the UK.
10. The trail in the City of London is funded by the City Corporation's Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund.
11. The 10 Globes will be designed by artists at various stages of their careers. Commissions will also be supported by community engagement workshops.
12. The design of each Globe and the artists are still to be confirmed. Most designs will be selected and commissioned by an experienced jury, following an Open Call. *The World Reimagined's* Founding Artist is the internationally renowned Yinka Shonibare CBE who, with other expert advisors, will ensure high artistic merits across all designs.
13. The impact of the trail will be increased by its connection to a new digital platform, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. A learning programme will also be free to City of London schools, with small Globe sculptures hosted indoors in locations within the City of London.
14. Locations are still to be determined. However, the applicant has agreed to work closely with teams in the Environment Department to determine feasible and accessible sites.
15. **The CAI recommended this application be approved subject to permissions and ongoing consultation with Highways and Planning, ensuring that agreed sites are feasible and accessible.**

### **Asphalt Arts – updated artworks for new locations in the City**

16. The CAI received a revised application from officers in the Environment Department and Cultural and Visitor Development as part of the *Asphalt Arts* programme.
17. The proposal seeks to install two artworks at two locations in the Cheapside area on a temporary basis.
18. Your Committee is referred to the email sent to all of its Members on 9 November 2021 with regards this project to provide context:

#### ***“Asphalt Art (Colourful Crossings)***

*As CHL Members will be aware, the City Corporation, with support from the Cheapside Business Alliance and Bloomberg, began work on the [Colourful](#)*

Crossings project in September this year. The City elements are part of a wider project across central London led by the GLA's culture team. To date 1 crossing out of a planned 6 has been installed [in the City], plus the pedestrianised area of Queen Street, with the next having been due to be delivered this week [week commencing 8 November 2021].

On Wednesday 3 November, the Mayor of London issued a letter to Transport for All, committing to pause the project on TfL roads following concerns raised by the access group. In his letter, he asks that TfL request local London Boroughs to also pause work.

Officers have taken the difficult but inevitable decision to do this while further research is undertaken to understand the impacts on disabled people. In the interim (the estimated timeframe for the research to be completed is a year), officers are exploring alternative options with the sponsors and will report back to Members once these have been interrogated....”

19. To inform these options, Asphalt Arts project officers held focus group sessions with the City of London Access Group (COLAG). The sessions focused on identifying feasible locations. Feedback from COLAG has also informed the designs.
20. At their latest focus group, COLAG were supportive of installing artworks on vertical sites, emphasising that they do not support horizontal application on the ground. COLAG and the City Corporation's Access Advisor recommended installing artworks above head height.
21. Two 2D artworks have been developed by University of Arts London graduates Annabel Maguire and Sophie Cornish. Full visuals of artworks and proposed locations are available in Appendix 2.
22. Project officers have identified three potential locations for vertical application in the Cheapside area. These include retail frontages and large vacant walls.
23. Only two sites will be chosen to host each artwork. The applicants are seeking approval for all potential locations, with delegated authority given to City Corporation officers to determine where each artwork will be installed.
24. All final sites will be subject to agreement from COLAG, officers in the Environment Department and land or building owners (where necessary). The length of time that each artwork will be in situ will be dependent on landowner permissions.
25. Permission from landowners is still to be secured. Applicants will also need agreement from project sponsors / partners.
26. At its January meeting, your City Arts Initiative agreed these sites, subject to consent from land and/or building owners and COLAG, as well as any Planning permissions (if necessary).
27. However, it should be noted that the vertical application to the front of One New Change (site 1 in Appendix 2) was considered too large and not

appropriate to a building of such architectural importance by some members of CAI.

**28. The CAI approved all locations subject to agreement from landowners and COLAG, as well as Planning permission (where necessary).**

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

29. 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**

30. This report summarises the discussions of the City Arts Initiative. It presents recommendations in relation to the public art applications considered on 25 November 2021 and 13 January 2022.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1: The World Reimagined, 25 November 2021
- Appendix 2: Asphalt Art – updated locations and artworks, 13 January 2022

### **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**

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