

Committee(s): Culture, Heritage and Libraries – For Decision	Dated: 04/11/2024
Subject: City Arts Initiative – Recommendations to the Committee	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Vibrant Thriving Destination & Flourishing Public Spaces
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: Emma Markiewicz, Head of Profession (Culture)	For Decision
Report author: Joanna Parker, Principal Planning Officer, Environment	

Summary

This report presents the recommendations of the City Arts Initiative (CAI) which met on 3 October 2024. At this meeting CAI considered the following proposals:

1. Court Building, Fleet Street Salisbury Square Development Artworks
2. Bowyers Hall Blue Plaque

Recommendation(s)

CAI recommends that members of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee are asked to:

1. Approve the artist concept and designs for the new court building at the Salisbury Square Development.
2. Note that the final text and poetry selection for the ground floor granite panels, integrated, lighting and alternative interpretations will be brought back to the CHL committee to approve. The designs will also go through the planning process as condition details as well as the Capital Buildings Board for final sign off.
3. Approve the Bowyers Hall Blue Plaque.

The approval is also subject to any additional necessary permissions gained from environmental health, planning and highways.

Main Report

Background

1. The CAI met on 3 October 2024 to consider the proposals outlined below.

2. At the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee meeting on 20 May 2024, Members approved the CAI's recommendations on the delegated authority criteria for CAI applications. Items 1 and 2 require referral to the CHL Committee for decision.
3. Further background information is available in appendices below. Full details of all the applications to the CAI are available on request from the Cultural Policy & Partnerships Officer (katie.whitbourn@cityoflondon.gov.uk).

Proposals

Court Building, Fleet Street, Salisbury Square Development Artworks

4. A planning application submitted by Avison and Young for the City of London Corporation 20/00997/FULEIA was approved on 30.01.2021 for the flagship Salisbury Square development including a new Court facility for His Majesty's Courts & Tribunals Service (HMCTS). The designs for the building have been developed by award winning architects Eric Parry Architects which include an artwork proposal which is to be applied to the North façade of the new court building including 10 x granite art panels at ground and glazed oriel window above facing Fleet Street expected to be delivered in Q1 2027. The artwork will be in place permanently and has a lifespan of 125 years.
5. The budget for the artworks were allocated within the Salisbury Square Development budget approved by the Capital Buildings Board which include the artist fees, materials, fabrication and production, lighting, installation and transportation.
6. The process also included an open tender and artist competition which was judged by a panel including:
 - Rebecca Salter, President of the Royal Academy of Art;
 - Dr Richard Cork, art historian, editor, critic, broadcaster and exhibition curator;
 - Wendy Hyde, Common Councillor for Bishopsgate, Member and past Chair of Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee, City of London;
 - Keith Bottomley Common Councillor for Bridge and Bridge Without Ward, Deputy Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee, City of London (withdrew from the panel late 2023).
 - Eric Parry, Eric Parry Architects, Member of the Royal Academy of Art.

Following a rigorous selection process artist Shirazeh Houshiary's proposals were selected for the building.

6. The artwork is applied to the glazing of the windows which are set within four glazed panels. In addition, there will be ten large granite panels which are to be carved with back lit glass inlays and text of poetry. The artwork and poetry tell the story of the continuing evolution of DNA and its critical role in the story of justice. The designs of the artworks and artist statement can be viewed in appendix 1 and 2.

7. The artist will commence research from mid-October in relation to choosing the final poetry inscriptions. The artist will also be consulting with poets and considering suggestions made by CAI and CBB members. An example of the poetry being considered is 'The Cure at Troy' by Seamus Heaney. The final text and poetry selection will be reviewed as part of the planning condition and provided to CHL for approval at a later date.
8. Lighting is an integral part of the artwork design, and the project team are working with a lighting designer to subtly highlight the glazed screen and stone elements with LED light fixtures. City Arts Initiative Members recommended that the lighting designer refers to the CoLC lighting supplementary planning document to ensure the lighting meets accessibility standards, is in accordance with the surrounding area and does not impact road users at nighttime. The CoLC access advisor also recommended that the lighting be reviewed to ensure there is no glare and follows good practice set out in the Design for the Mind guidance. The details of the lighting including location, controls and lux levels will be included in the public art strategy and will be assessed as part of the planning conditions and be provided for CHL for approval at a later date.
9. CAI recommends that the applicant ensure that the finalised designs are as inclusive as possible and include alternative interpretations of the artwork and poetry. It is proposed that this will include braille and QR codes which links to a website hosting information about the artwork, audio versions of the poetry and links to the text in the more accessible Sans Serif font. The final location and design of the information panel and website will be reviewed as part of the planning conditions and will be provided to CHL for approval at a later date.
10. The maintenance responsibility has been agreed with HMCTS who have signed a lease with CoLC to occupy the building for 125 years. HMCTS hold responsibility as tenant to clean and maintain the building façade inclusive of the artwork and this will be integrated as part of the façade cleaning programme. An anti-graffiti seal will also be applied to the artworks. If HMCTS terminate their contract for whatever reason, the responsibility for maintenance will fall to the City of London Corporation as the landlord.
11. The CAI panel unanimously considered the proposals to be exceptional quality for artistic merit including narrative, concept and materiality and worthy of this civic building. Matters relating to lighting, maintenance and inclusion have been further developed through the CAI process and will be further secured through the relevant planning conditions.
12. CAI recommends that the artist concept and designs for the Court building artworks are approved subject to the necessary permissions and licenses being obtained and further detail on text, lighting and interpretation to be reviewed by CHL at a later date.

The Worshipful Company of Bowyers - Bowyers Hall in the 16th Century Blue Plaque

13. The CAI received an application from The Worshipful Company of Bowyers for a blue plaque to be placed at 6-7 Wallside in the Barbican to commemorate the location of Bowyer's Hall in the 16th Century. See appendix 3 and 4 for more details.
14. 6-7 Wallside is a grade II listed building and listed building consent will be required. The freeholders at the address have been consulted with and have confirmed their approval for the plaque installation to proceed.
15. Historical checks have been completed to establish the site of Bowyer's Hall and The London Archives have confirmed this information to be correct.
16. The CAI recommends that this proposal is approved subject to listed building consent and (if necessary) planning permission being gained.

Options

17. The City Arts Initiative asks the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee to approve the CAI recommendations for:
 - a. The artist concept and designs for the new court building at the Salisbury Square Development.
 - b. Bowyers Hall Blue Plaque

Strategic implications

18. Financial implications – Funding for CAI projects/installations are all fully funded. Funding for the Salisbury Square Artworks were approved by the Capital Buildings Board as a part of the City of London Salisbury Square Envelope Budget.
19. Resource implications – Apart from officer time handling enquiries and managing the installations, there are no resource implications other than where specifically noted.
20. Legal implications – No legal implications have been identified.
21. Risk implications – No risk implications have been identified.
22. Health & Safety implications – The City Arts Initiative has Health and Safety representation on the panel and no health and safety implications were raised. The RAMs will be reviewed under the planning condition.
23. Equalities implications – No equalities implications have been identified. The City Arts Initiative has an access officer present on the panel, and the panel reviews applications in terms of accessibility and inclusivity.
24. Climate implications – No climate implications have been identified.
25. Security implications – No security implications have been identified.

Conclusion

20. This report summarises the discussions of the City Arts Initiative. It presents recommendations in relation to the public art applications considered on 3 October 2024.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Salisbury Square Artist’s Proposal
Appendix 2 – Salisbury Square Artist’s Granite Panel Proposal
Appendix 3 – Bowyer’s Application & Supporting Information
Appendix 4 – Bowyer’s Blue Plaque Mock Up

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