

Committee(s): • Culture, Heritage and Libraries	Dated: • 10 February 2024
Subject: Sculpture in the City – 13 th Edition Report and 14 th Edition Delivery Plans	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diverse Engaged Communities • Vibrant Thriving Destination • Flourishing Public Spaces
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	Existing local risk budget and external funding
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Emma Markiewicz, Head of Profession (Culture)	For Information
Report author: Omkar Chana, Project Director (Culture)	

Summary

This report provides an update on the success of the 13th Edition (2024) of Sculpture in the City (SITC) and outlines delivery plans for 2025 within a new delivery framework.

As part of the transition and continuation of the programme under the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee, in July 2024 Members approved the recommendation for the Head of Profession for Culture to consult with SITC partners to determine the future vision and operating model for the programme (in line with the development of the Cultural Strategy).

The vision work has started and a collectively agreed framework for 2025 has been developed with external partners to enable the delivery of the 14th Edition of SITC alongside further future vision sessions to determine how the programme develops and creates a sustainable model for the future.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to receive the content of this report for information.

Main Report

Background

1. In 2024, the Destination City team – whilst transitioning to the Culture team – successfully delivered the 13th Edition of SITC.
2. In July 2024, Culture Heritage and Libraries Committee (CHL) approved the Head of Profession for Culture (HoPC) to determine the future vision and operating model for the programme in consultation with SITC partners and to ensure alignment with the new Cultural Strategy.
3. The HoPC met with the SITC Partner Board in November 2024 and agreed a new framework to enable the delivery of the 14th Edition in 2025, with both City Corporation and partner funding. The framework is based on a reduced model to enable capacity to consider a sustainable future operating model. This approach also reflects the 2025 proposed budget (from local risk and external partners).

Current Position

4. This report provides a summary of the 13th Edition of SITC results and details of plans to deliver SITC in 2025.
5. An evaluation report for the 13th Edition was presented to the Partner Board in October 2024. Appendix 1 has a summary with the following highlights.
6. **PR and Communications** – Flint Culture was commissioned to deliver the PR for the programme for July to September 2024. Results included 78 items of coverage including the Telegraph, Guardian and Elle Decoration, as well as Time Out, BBC Radio London and a segment on ITV News London. The SITC social media accounts performed well, reaching over 10,000 followers on Instagram in December 2024.
7. **Artworks and Artists** – Ten new artworks were selected to feature as well as five 12th Edition works retained and two permanent pieces. The exhibition featured renowned artist, Julian Opie, whose new piece was a world premiere, making its first public appearance in SITC. Hilary Jack's piece Deluge (displayed at The Cheese grater) was recently selected as one of twelve of 'The Best Public Artworks in 2024' in Artsy's annual global list.
8. **Activations Programme** – A programme of 29 activations engaged 300+ attendees, with 75% from a local worker audience. Activations continue until March 2025.
9. **Education Programme** – 36 workshops for nine local schools were delivered. 178 pupils participated in the workshops, supported by 105 volunteers from SITC

partner organisations and the City Corporation. A free family trail map was created, with 3,000 copies distributed across the Square Mile and beyond.

10. **Partnerships** – Ten partners sat on the Partner Board. The majority of which increased their funding contributions to support a funding gap. EC Bid increased their contribution to include activations and promotion. There were eight Patron's in total, four newly secured for 2024.
11. **Budget** – Project expenditure was £572k. With external contributions of £424k and £148k from the City Corporation (CIL funding and local risk budgets from Environment and Culture). Corporation officers also contributed £152k of in-kind staff resource.
12. Following the success of the 13th Edition, partners reaffirmed their support for the programme with a strong desire for the public/private sector collaboration to continue. There is a clear focus on the development and future of the programme, with collective agreement to deliver a scaled back model for 2025 to dedicate time and resource to planning for a sustainable future.
13. We would like to put on record our immense appreciation for our respected Member Wendy Hyde who has provided robust leadership as Chair of the Sculpture in the City Partner Board. The 2024/25 edition was the final edition to be delivered under Wendy's passionate and attentive chairmanship.

Proposals

14. Officers continue to implement the previously approved recommendation of 'option five' from the 15 July 2024 non-public paper, "*SITC - update and future programme delivery*", which provided authority to the HoPC to determine the future vision and operating model for the programme in consultation with SITC partners.
15. Parameters for delivering the 2025 programme within a new framework have been agreed with the Partner Board. This includes delivery of the 14th Edition alongside future visioning workshops for further programme development. This will align with the recommendations from Cultural Strategy as they emerge. The draft framework for this year considers the following areas.
16. **Number of artworks** – Set maximum total artworks to 10 per edition and shift partnership model to one where partners are buying into the overall programme/benefits rather than a focus on direct artwork benefits.
17. **Criteria for new artworks** – Ensure artworks continue to focus on quality, with a balance between established and emerging artists and a priority on works of scale in prominent locations to ensure value for money and impact.

18. **Activations programme** – Embed activations programme and deliver throughout the year, with a growing focus on year-round digital activations.
19. **Education programme** – Pursue the option for grant funding and continue to develop the education programme and funding model for the long-term.
20. **Budget** – Retain flexible approach to final mix of artworks and wider activities, managing additional activities through any upside. Manage cashflow and stay within budget with no in-year funding requests.
21. **SITC future model** – Obtain commitment from partners to invest time to define how SITC will evolve in future years (with a 3-to-5-year plan).
22. Officers are now initiating the project which will deliver the 14th Edition based on the new operational framework. The new edition is planned for install in late summer 2025.
23. 2025/26 will be a pivotal year for the future of the programme as Officers work closely with CAI and our SITC partners in parallel with the development of the Culture Strategy to consider the scope and direction for public arts programmes in the Square Mile.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

24. Strategic implications – this report aligns with the following outcomes in the new Corporate Plan: Diverse Engaged Communities, Vibrant Thriving Destination, Flourishing Public Spaces.
25. Financial implications – The total project budget for 2025 is £305k. £255k from external partners and patrons. And up to £50k from the City Corporation from the Culture team's local risk budget as well as up to £150k of in-kind staff costs. Officers are only commencing project initiation on confirmation of the core budget. Cashflow will be managed within the parameters of the framework to ensure no overspend. In addition to the project budget of £305k, EC Bid continue to fund the activations programme separately.
26. Any additional external funding secured for the project will contribute towards extra activities including the education programme, promotional activities and a project reserve. The 2024 edition was the first time in 13 years where a project reserve was established and COL did not need to underwrite project overspends.
27. The Culture team would contribute to the project for 2025 from local risk budgets due to a combination of some savings on planned projects and a vacancy factor.
28. The project operates across financial years, meaning expenditure for the 13th Edition and 14th Edition will happen simultaneously in both 24/25 and 25/26. The 13th Edition expenditure will cease in summer 2025 when the artworks are

deinstalled. Expenditure for the 14th Edition will commence in February 2025 with the procurement of suppliers for the artistic curation and art handling services and continue until summer 2026.

29. Resource implications – The project will be managed in house by the Culture team, without additional staff resource that the Environment department provided last year. This is possible and can be managed, but the team is now reaching its limits in terms of capacity to deliver on projects without additional resources being brought in where necessary.
30. Legal implications – Non identified.
31. Risk implications – Due to the intrinsic nature of artworks being installed in the public realm for one to two years, there is a real risk of damage through natural causes and unfortunately vandalism and theft. This risk is mitigated through a combination of insurance, contingency and reserve. This has previously worked well, and each occurrence is managed on a case-by-case basis. However, there is a risk that case(s) may put additional strain on the budget, and we would seek to resolve this in the best interests of all involved (e.g. COL, partners, patrons, artists).
32. Equalities implications – The project is available to the public 24/7, and anyone can access it and enjoy the artworks as they are displayed in the public realm. The artworks are also assessed at City Arts Initiative (CAI) and through the planning process for accessibility. The education programme engages with young people from a diverse range of schools often with young people from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. As part of the considerations for the future programme, the accessibility and inclusivity of the project will be reviewed to ensure a diverse range of artists are showcased and a diverse audience demographic is engaged. This was achieved in 2024 through the artists that were engaged.
33. Climate implications – a carbon review of the project is carried out, including environmental considerations for shortlisted artists and transportation is predominantly within the UK only. All suppliers provide environmental and sustainability policies to ensure the most sustainable working practices are embedded.
34. Security implications – all artworks are reviewed by a technical team in advance of submission with mitigations applied to artworks if required. The conservation team carry out security and maintenance on site once artworks are installed monthly. Remedial work is carried out on a case-by-case basis. Instances of vandalism have been rare in the history of the project.
35. Health & Safety implications – all artworks will be submitted to CAI for approval and are reviewed by the H&S office under the Deputy Town Clerk. A technical team and structural engineers carry out feasibility studies on all artworks to

ensure viability including H&S. RAMS are submitted for all artworks and all licenses, permits and applications are applied for to gain relevant approvals from COL and landowners.

Conclusion

36. The 13th Edition of SITC was successfully delivered in 2024. The HoPC has consulted with SITC partners to determine the future vision and operating model for the programme. A new framework is being used for the 14th Edition. It has been developed and used to determine the budget for the 2025 programme.
37. Officers are commencing with project delivery based on the framework with a reduced programme for the 14th Edition for launch in late summer 2025.
38. The HoPC and SITC partners have committed to investing time in 2025 to define how SITC will evolve in future years and ensuring alignment with the Cultural Strategy beyond 2025. A recommendation will come back to Committee as a result of the Cultural Strategy work.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – SITC 13th Edition Report

Background Papers

- [Community Infrastructure Levy, On-Street Parking Reserves and Capital Bids \(Quarter 3 - 2023/24\)](#), Policy and Resources Committee, 18 January 2024
- SITC transition, Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee, 18 March 2024 (Non-Public Paper)
- SITC 13th Edition: 2024 delivery, Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee, 10 May 2024 (Non-Public Paper)
- SITC - update and future programme delivery, Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee, 15 July (Non-Public Paper)

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