

Committee(s): Culture, Heritage and Libraries – For Decision	Dated: 09/05/2025
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?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: Gregory Moore, Deputy Town Clerk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Decision
Report author: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emma Markiewicz, Head of Profession for Culture • Joanna Parker, Principal Planning Officer, Environment 	

Summary

This report presents the recommendations of the City Arts Initiative (CAI) which met on 3 April 2025. At this meeting CAI considered the following proposals for temporary installations:

1. London Festival of Architecture 2025
 - a. 'Whispers' by Oskar Zieta
 - b. Unheard Voices of the City
 - c. Aldermanbury Summer Activation

Recommendation(s)

CAI recommends that the following is approved by the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee:

1. **London Festival of Architecture in the City 2025**
 - a. Whispers by Oskar Zieta at Ludgate Hill for a duration of 3-4 months
 - b. Unheard Voices of the City at Bartholomew Hospital Courtyard for up to 1 month.
 - c. Aldermanbury Summer Activation for a duration of 3 days.

Main Report

Background

1. The CAI met on 3 April 2025 to consider the proposals outlined below. CAI is a group made up of City Corporation Officers, external arts experts and City of London Members. Members were not present at the 3 April meeting due to the outcome of the 2025 election with three members who sit on CAI no longer in office.
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. The following items meet the delegated authority criteria as they are all temporary and low risk installations.
3. Members should note that the CAI process will be reviewed in line with the forthcoming Culture Strategy to further improve the delivery of public art in the City and ensure greater cross-collaboration with other key corporation departments.
4. 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

London Festival of Architecture 2025 (LFA 2025)

a. Whispers by Oskar Zieta

5. New London Architecture have submitted a proposal for London Festival of Architecture 2025, a pan-London festival. 'Whispers' by Polish artist and architect Oskar Zieta is an interactive public sculpture which exemplifies the intersection in art, engineering and public engagement.
6. The proposal is to be sited on the corner of 60 Ludgate Hill. Positioned near City Thameslink station and along one of Fleet Streets major routes connection the City of London with Westminster, the site benefits from high footfall.
7. The Centre piece of this project is an ultralight, steel bench and has been designed as a space for exchanging voices and creating meaningful connections. The second object is designed to refract both light and sound, 'embodying a half whisper'. Further information on the designs can be found in appendix 1. The pieces are designed to be heavy enough so no fixing to the ground will be necessary.
8. The project is jointly funded by Fleet Street Quarter BID in partnership with the Polish Cultural Institute (as a part of British Council's UK/Poland season) who are collaborating with LFA for this year's festival.
9. The installation launch will be the headline event for LFA 2025 with the launch event taking place on 29 May. The installation will then be in place for the

duration of London Festival of Architecture up until 30 June 2025 with a possible extension until London Design Festival (starting in September).

10. The maintenance of the artworks will be the responsibility of the Fleet Street Quarter BID and the Polish Cultural Institute. Fleet Street Quarter Ambassadors will conduct regular checks of the area.
11. The applicants have consulted with highways who have granted necessary permissions and licences.
12. The CAI panel assessed the installation in terms of accessibility and feasibility and provided feedback. The panel recommends this proposal is approved.

Unheard Voices of the City

13. The London Museum in partnership with Power Out of Restriction Collective (POoR, a design practice that works with young people to create tangible outputs in their local environments) and Culture Mile Bid are collaborating on the project 'Unheard Voices of the City' for LFA 2025. The project is supported with a grant from City of London CIL Neighbourhood Fund and Arts Council.
14. The project will involve a community engagement and co-design initiative which will culminate in a site-specific pavilion and temporary installation in the historic courtyard of St Bartholomew's Hospital. The installation will be in place from 14-29 June.
15. Through collaborative workshops, artworks which feature as a part of the installation will be co-designed and created in partnership with members of Smithfield's vibrant late-night communities. Engagement and co-design workshops will commence from mid-April to early May. Further information on the designs and engagement groups can be found in appendix 2.
16. The maintenance of the artworks will be the responsibility of the London Museum with POoR Collective. Culture Mile BID ambassadors will also check the display regularly as a part of their usual volunteer rounds.
17. The CAI panel assessed the installation in terms of accessibility, feasibility and recommended the applicant consults with City Health and Safety Officers before installation takes place. The panel recommends this proposal is approved provided all necessary licenses and permissions are obtained.

Aldermanbury Summer Activation

18. New London Architecture have submitted a proposal on behalf of Culture Mile BID for LFA 2025. The Aldermanbury activation will include a temporary road closure of Aldermanbury to create a dynamic place for knowledge-sharing, exploration and exchange.
19. The activation includes 4 monoliths and window vinyls which will form an exhibition 'Voices of the Street' (working name) which celebrates the 20th anniversary of NLA with an active exploration of public spaces, access and

pedestrian connectivity in London. The exhibition highlights the evolution of public spaces through the lenses of history, community, and future visions. Site plans can be viewed in appendix 3.

20. Located next to the London Centre, this week of on-street activity will provide a platform to showcase different public realm projects. The project is jointly funded by Culture Mile BID and NLA. It is intended that this installation will be in place for 3 days from Monday 30 June to Thursday 3 July 12pm). This proposal coincides with the closing ceremony of LFA 2025.
21. The maintenance of the installations and any cleansing required during and after the event will be managed by the NLA Events Team.
22. The CAI panel assessed the installation in terms of accessibility and feasibility and provided feedback. Further information was requested around monitoring & evaluation and movement routes. NLA have provided a comprehensive response outlining their evaluation methods and site plans to highlight access routes.
23. The panel recommends this proposal is approved provided all necessary licenses and permissions are obtained.

Strategic implications

24. Financial implications – Funding for CAI projects/installations are all fully funded.
25. Resource implications – Apart from officer time handling enquiries, providing applicant support and managing the installations, there are no resource implications other than where specifically noted.
26. Legal implications – No legal implications have been identified.
27. Risk implications – No risk implications have been identified.
28. Health & Safety implications – The City Arts Initiative has Health and Safety representation on the panel and is consulted with further where necessary.
29. Equalities implications – The City Arts Initiative has an access officer present on the panel, and the panel reviews applications in terms of accessibility and inclusivity.
30. Climate implications – No climate implications have been identified.
31. Security implications – No security implications have been identified.

Conclusion

32. This report summarises the discussions of the City Arts Initiative. It presents recommendations in relation to the public art applications considered on 3 April 2025.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Oskar Zieta for LFA Proposal
- Appendix 2 – Unheard Voices of the City Engagement and Design Plan
- Appendix 3 – Aldermanbury Summer Activation Supporting Documents

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