

Committee(s): Culture, Heritage and Libraries – For Decision	Dated: 22/09/2025
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?	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	For Decision
Report author: Emma Markiewicz, Head of Profession (Culture) Joanna Parker, Principal Planning Officer, Environment	

Summary

This report presents the recommendations of the City Arts Initiative (CAI) which met on 24 July 2025. At this meeting CAI considered the following proposals:

1. Framework Knitters Hall Blue Plaque
2. Frances Quarles Blue Plaque
3. Fleet Street Quarter Festive Trail

Recommendation(s)

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

1. Approve the Framework Knitters Hall Blue Plaque.
2. Approve the Frances Quarles Blue Plaque
3. Approve Fleet Street Quarter Festive Trail

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 24 July 2025 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 as they are blue plaques. Item 3 would normally be a delegated decision due to its temporary nature. It is being submitted to CHL as a decision can be sought more quickly via this route.

3. Blue plaque applications are administered by the Heritage Estates Team (within the City Surveyor's Department) and reviewed by the CAI panel with the panel recommendation ratified by the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee. Applications for new blue plaques in the City is currently paused whilst the backlog of applications are cleared.
4. There is now a backlog of 5 applications (in addition to the two proposals outlined in this report) which officers are working towards clearing whilst the future resourcing and delivery model of the blue plaque programme is reviewed.
5. 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

Framework Knitters Hall Blue Plaque

6. The CAI received an application from The Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters for a blue plaque to be placed at Lakeside Terrace at Defoe House in the Barbican Centre to commemorate the location of Framework Knitters Hall from 1680-1821. See appendix 1 and 2 for more details.
7. The Barbican is a grade II listed building and listed building consent will be required.
8. Historical checks have been completed to confirm this as the site of Framework Knitter's Hall and The London Archives have confirmed this information to be correct.
9. The CAI recommends that this proposal is approved subject to listed building consent.

Frances Quarles Blue Plaque

10. The CAI received an application from The Parochial Church Council of St Vedast for a blue plaque to be placed at St Olave's Churchyard, Silver Street, Noble St, London, EC2Y 5BL to identify the location of the burial site of the Anglican Poet, Churchman and Chronologer to the City of London, Frances Quarles. See appendix 3 and 4 for more details.
11. Historical checks have been completed to confirm this as the burial site of Frances Quarles and The London Archives have confirmed this information to be correct.

12. The CAI recommends that this proposal is approved subject any necessary permissions being gained.

Fleet Street Quarter Festive Snoopy Trail

5. Fleet Street Quarter BID (FSQ) have submitted a proposal for a Festive Snoopy Trail to be installed in the BID area for the festive period from 11th November 2025 to 16th January 2026.
6. The trail will celebrate the beloved character Snoopy through 12 artist designed sculptures of his iconic doghouse all aimed at driving footfall, supporting local businesses, engaging the community and celebrating creativity in the City. Further information can be found in appendix 5 and 6.
7. The trail is to be sited across 12 prominent locations in the FSQ BID area which have all been agreed with the City Highways Team. Locations will include:
 - New Street Square
 - St Bride's Passage
 - Gough Square
 - Rolls Building
 - Cursitor Street
 - Plough Place
 - Fetter Lane
 - Holborn Circus
 - Fleet Place House
 - St Bride's Street
 - Apex Hotel on Fleet Street
 - Godliman Street near the City Information Centre
8. The artworks will stand on a plinth which will be 120cm x 120cm and 200cm in height with a minimum weight of 250kg. Installation of the artworks will be managed by the Wild in Art logistics team.
9. The project is delivered in partnership with FSQ BID, Wild in Art and Peanuts and will be funded by FSQ.
10. FSQ are also exploring Snoopy merchandise opportunities to sell in City outlets (for example the City Information Centre and Barbican shop) as well as local food & beverage discounts that could be offered to trail participants.
11. The maintenance of the artworks will be the responsibility of the FSQ BID and supported by Wild in Art. Fleet Street Quarter Ambassadors will conduct regular checks of the area.
12. The applicants have consulted with City Highways who have granted necessary permissions and licences. The Planning team have advised that planning permission is likely to be required, and this is being discussed directly with FSQ BID.

13. The CAI panel requested further information about the artist commissioning process as well as inputting suggestions into potential artwork themes which explore the City's heritage. The panel also requested further information on the interpretation materials and map trail for the artworks as well as the artwork designs when they are finalised.
14. The CAI panel assessed the installation in terms of accessibility and feasibility and has provided feedback to the applicant. The panel recommends this proposal is approved.

Options

13. The City Arts Initiative asks the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee to approve the CAI recommendations for:
 - a. Framework Knitter's Hall Blue Plaque
 - b. Frances Quarles Blue Plaque
 - c. Fleet Street Quarter Festive Trail

Strategic implications

14. Financial implications – Funding for blue plaques are fully funded by the applicant.
15. Resource implications – As has been previously stated, resourcing for the blue plaque scheme is currently insufficient and this and the process is being reviewed by the Deputy Town Clerk, City Surveyors and the Culture Team.
16. Legal implications – No legal implications have been identified.
17. Risk implications – No risk implications have been identified.
18. Health & Safety implications – The City Arts Initiative has Health and Safety representation on the panel and no health and safety implications were raised.
19. 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.
20. Climate implications – No climate implications have been identified.
21. Security implications – No security implications have been identified.

Conclusion

20. This report summarises the City Arts Initiative panel review of the two applications. It presents recommendations in relation to the public art applications considered on 24 July 2025.

Appendices

- Appendix 1. CAI Blue Plaque Application form Knitters Hall
- Appendix 2. Framework Knitters Proposed Location and Design
- Appendix 3. CAI Blue Plaque Application form Francis Quarles
- Appendix 4. Francis Quarles Blue Plaque Proposed Location
- Appendix 5. [FSQ Festive Trail Proposal](#)
- Appendix 6 – Snoopy Design

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