

Committee(s): Culture, Heritage and Libraries – For Decision	Dated: 08/12/2025
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 Spaces
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	n/a
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: Joanna Parker, Principal Planning Officer, Environment Emma Markiewicz, Head of Profession (Culture)	

Summary

This report presents the recommendations of the City Arts Initiative (CAI) which met on 25 September 2025. At this meeting CAI considered the following proposal:

1. Barbican Sculpture Court Installation – Delcy Morelos

Recommendation(s)

CAI recommends that the following is approved via delegated authority between the Town Clerk and Chair & Deputy Chair of Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee:

1. Barbican Sculpture Court Installation – Delcy Morelos

Background

2. The CAI met on 25 September 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.
3. 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. This proposal meets the delegated authority criteria due to the temporary duration it is in place for.
4. Further background information is available in the appendix 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).
- 5.

Proposal

Barbican Sculpture Court – Delcy Morelos

6. The CAI received an application from the Barbican Centre Visual Arts Team to install a sculpture at the Barbican Sculpture Court made from soil and clay by Colombian artist Delcy Morelos. Further details of the artwork including artist concept can be viewed in appendix 1.
7. The proposal is for the sculpture to be in situ at the sculpture court from 30 April-31 July 2026. Visitors will be invited to circulate the artwork's ovular tunnel and become a part of its ecosystem. This is the third project commissioned as a part of the Barbican Centre's public art programme which looks to animate the building for all visitors and initiate new conversations about the value of art in the public realm.
8. The proposal will be funded in part by the Barbican Art Gallery Annual budget and through private funding by the Bukhman Foundation and other individual donors.
9. The proposal will be reviewed by CoL Planning, Corporate Health and Safety and the District Surveyor. A planning and listed building application has been submitted. The Barbican have confirmed that they will be working closely with their fire safety team and structural engineers to ensure the sculpture meets required standards. Structural plans and methodology are available on request.
10. The Barbican Visual Arts Team have been in consultation with the Residents Association as well as other key stakeholders across the Barbican Centre and City of London (e.g. the renewal team).
11. The Barbican Centre Team have confirmed that they will be responsible for maintenance of the sculpture and will be closely monitoring the installation once it is in place. This has been accounted for in the budget and a certain degree of wear and tear is expected.
11. The CAI panel are supportive of the project and artistic concept and have provided feedback to the applicant around enhancing community engagement and wayfinding of the sculpture court. The CAI access advisor will also further review the plans to ensure there are adequate turning circles within the structure and made further recommendations around quiet times and prior information notices, so audiences know what to expect when entering the sculpture.
12. The CAI recommends this application is approved under delegated authority subject to the planning permission and consents being gained as well as the aforementioned recommendations being taken onboard.

Options

13. The City Arts Initiative asks the Town Clerk, the Chair and Deputy Chair of the CHL Committee to approve, via delegated authority, the CAI recommendations for:
 - a) Delcy Morelos Sculpture to be installed in Barbican Centre Sculpture Court for 3 months.

Strategic implications

14. Financial implications – Funding for CAI projects/installations are all fully funded.
15. Resource implications – Apart from officer time handling enquiries and managing the installations, there are no resource implications other than where specifically noted.
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. H&S will also be reviewed as a part of the planning and highways process.
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

22. This report summarises the discussions of the City Arts Initiative. It presents recommendations in relation to the public art applications considered on 25 September 2025. The delegated decision will be reported to CHL Committee on 6 November 2025 for information.

Appendix (1)

Appendix 1 – Delcy Morelos Project Overview