

Committee(s): Culture, Heritage and Libraries – For Decision	Dated: 19/01/2026
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. Feltmaker’s Hall Blue Plaque

Recommendation(s)

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

1. Approve the Feltmaker’s Hall Blue Plaque

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

Main Report

Background

1. The City Arts Initiative (CAI) met on 4 December 2025 to consider the proposal outlined below.
2. At the Culture, Heritage and Libraries (CHL) Committee meeting on 20 May 2024, Members approved the CAI’s recommendations on the delegated authority criteria for CAI applications. Item 1 requires referral to the CHL Committee for decision as it is a blue plaque.

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 CHL Committee.
4. This is the final blue plaque application in the backlog which the Heritage Estates Team have worked to clear ahead of the commencement of the rebooted blue plaque scheme.
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

Feltmaker's Hall Blue Plaque

6. The CAI received an application from the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers for a blue plaque to be placed at City of London School, Queen Victoria Street, EC4 to commemorate the location of the original Feltmakers Hall dated from 1618 and destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666. See appendix 1 and 2 for more details.
7. The Worshipful Company of Feltmakers traces its origins to the early livery companies of the City of London, playing a key role in regulating and supporting the felt-making trade. This plaque would recognise the Feltmakers contribution to the City's commercial and civic life, as well as the historical significance of the original hall's location.
8. Historical checks have been completed to confirm the location is accurate and The London Archives have confirmed this information to be correct.
9. The CAI recommends that this proposal is approved subject to any further necessary permissions being gained.

Options

10. The City Arts Initiative asks the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee to approve the CAI recommendations for:
 - a. Feltmakers Hall Blue Plaque

Strategic implications

11. Financial implications – Funding for blue plaques are fully funded by the applicant.
12. 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. An update on resource and programme will be brought to the January 2026 committee.

13. Legal implications – No legal implications have been identified.
14. Risk implications – No risk implications have been identified.
15. Health & Safety implications – The CAI has Health and Safety representation on the panel, and no health and safety implications were raised.
16. Equalities implications – The City Arts Initiative has an access and inclusion officer present on the panel, and the panel reviews all applications in terms of accessibility and inclusivity.
17. Climate implications – No climate implications have been identified.
18. Security implications – No security implications have been identified.

Conclusion

20. This report summarises the City Arts Initiative panel review of the Feltmakers Hall blue plaque application considered on 4 December 2025.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Feltmakers Hall Supporting Information
Appendix 2 – Feltmakers Hall Blue Plaque Application

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