

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Culture, Heritage& Libraries	27 January 2014
Subject: City Arts Initiative	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Decision
Summary	
<p>This report presents the recommendations of the City Arts Initiative which met on 12 December 2013. The group considered a proposal titled 'Books About Town', which is recommended for your approval.</p> <p>In addition, at its May 2013 meeting the group considered the Puss & Mews proposal, the details of which were reported at the 1st July 2013 meeting of this Committee. Following a request by the City Arts Initiative the organisers have now found an alternative location and this too is recommended for your approval.</p>	
Recommendations	
<p>It is recommend that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Books About Town and Puss & Mews applications be approved, subject to the applicant securing planning permission and other appropriate licenses. 	

Main Report

Background

1. The City Arts Initiative was established to improve to the management of public art in the City. It provides advice to your Committee and other service Committees as appropriate on proposals for new public art, the maintenance of the City's existing public art and if necessary, decommissioning.
2. Your Committee appointed your Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Michael Welbank to sit on the City Arts Initiative Group.

Current Position

3. The City Arts Initiative met on the 12th December 2013 to consider a number of proposals for art in the City. This included the Books About Town application, which is recommended for approval.
4. A previous proposal, Puss & Mews, is also recommended for approval as the City Corporation as a suitable location for it has now been found.

5. Full details of the applications are available on request from the Town Clerk.

Proposals

Books About Town

6. This proposal involves positioning benches in the shape of open books along public trails within the City. The vision is to raise awareness of the City's literary heritage through an installation that will appeal to all ages. It is being supported by the National Literacy Trust.
7. It is proposed that the benches are on display for 10 weeks between July and September 2014. The group was supportive of the proposal and recommend it for approval, subject to questions around collaboration with the City libraries, choice of locations and the projects measure of success being answered. These have been addressed and the proposal is recommended for your approval.

Puss & Mews

8. This is a proposal to reconstruct a public house snug c1850-70 in a nook within the City. It is intended to create an immersive experience for up to 6 people and to communicate a part of lost London heritage and social history.
9. The City Arts Initiative had considered this at its May 2013 meeting and felt that, although it was an interesting project, the suggested Aldgate Subways were not an appropriate location. Following further work and discussions with the City Corporation, it has been proposed that the installation is located in the hording along the Thames Path at Blackfriars and is recommended for your approval.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

10. The City Arts Initiative was formed to support the City's management of public art which supports the "vibrant and culturally rich" strand of the City Together Strategy and the delivery of the City's Cultural Strategy.

Conclusion

11. This report summarises the discussions of the City Arts Initiative and presents recommendations in relation to the public art applications considered on 12 December 2013.

Appendices

None

Background Papers:

Full details of the applications are available on request from the Town Clerk.

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