

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Culture, Heritage & Libraries	2 July 2012
Subject: City Arts Initiative	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Decision
<p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>This report presents the recommendations of the City Arts Initiative Group which met on 11 June to discuss three art applications: the Robert Hooke Bell, Red House and a GLA proposal. Information was also received on the Great St Helen's Sculpture Space.</p> <p>The GLA proposal is recommended and is discussed in the non-public side of the agenda.</p> <p>The Robert Hooke Bell is recommended on the basis of a temporary installation of six months. This was due to the high demand for the particular location and concerns about how well the piece spoke to City location.</p> <p>The Red House proposal was welcomed in principle but as there are not yet specific proposals in respect of a location no further recommendations are made at this time. An officer has undertaken to explore possible locations.</p> <p>It is recommended that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the GLA application be approved • subject to Planning Permission, the Robert Hooke Bell be approved for a limited period of six months 	

Main Report

Background

1. The City Arts Initiative was established to improve the management of public art in the City. It provides advice to your Committee and service Committees as appropriate on proposals for new public art, maintenance of the City's public art and if necessary, decommissioning.

Current Position

2. The City Arts Initiative panel met on 11 June and considered three art applications: the Robert Hooke Bell, Red House and a GLA proposal. Information was also received on the Great St Helen's Sculpture Space
3. As previously agreed by your Committee, full details of the applications are available in the Members' Reading Room or at request from the Town Clerk.

Proposals

GLA proposal

4. The GLA have submitted an application for a number of very short term “pop up” art installations. They have requested that this proposal be kept confidential and so further details are discussed in the non-public side of the agenda.

Robert Hooke Bell

5. The MEMO Bell is part of a large project to create a global monument to extinct species which will be sited on the Isle of Portland. This will take the form of a bell which would be tolled whenever a species becomes extinct. The City element of the proposal is to have a four foot diameter scale model of the bell located in St Paul’s Churchyard. The bell itself is upturned (i.e. widest part facing upwards) and is a cast bronze bell with a ‘fossil’ surface. The application requested a temporary period of one year with the potential for a permanent installation.
6. In considering this application the group were supportive of the overall aim of the project and noted that it the project had prominent support. There were some concerned that the piece itself did not resonate as strongly in the proposed location or in the broader City context as it might elsewhere. There is also a very strong demand to locate artworks in St Paul’s Churchyard.
7. Due to the high demand for the location, it is recommended that, subject to planning permission, approval be given to site the Robert Hooke Bell in St Paul’s Churchyard for a period of six months.

Red House

8. An application from RSH+P architects and the London Design Festival to locate a shell of a low carbon, high energy efficient home in the City as part of the London Design Festival was considered. The piece will take the form of a red timber framed ‘house’ which would be in place from 14 – 23 September. The application did not identify a particular location and work will be needed to identify a suitable space for the structure.
9. The London Design Festival have not previously located pieces in the City and there was support amongst the group for developing this relationship and bringing the Festival into the City.
10. Due to the need for a location to be identified, no recommendation is presented at this stage. It was confirmed that planning permission will be required, and an officer undertook to do further work on the issue of location.

Great St Helens Sculpture Space

11. The Great St Helen's Sculpture Space is home to the City's new programme of temporary public artworks. The first year of the project was completed last year, and some of the art works for the second year have just been installed. The area is now attracting high quality artists. The project has been developed and delivered as a partnership between the City, local businesses (currently Hiscox, British Land Aviva, Aon, 30 St Mary Axe and Brookfield) and a number of art galleries. In addition to the installation of art works on a temporary basis the project has also delivered a range of community activities.
12. A presentation was received by the City Arts Initiative on the artworks for year 2. A copy of this is available in the Members Room.
13. A Committee report will be submitted to the Streets and Walkways Committee and Project Sub Committee regarding the funding of the project in years 3 and 4.

Implications

14. 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 Cultural Strategy.

Conclusion

15. This report summarises the discussions of the City Arts Initiative and presents recommendations in relation to the public art applications considered on 11 June 2012.

Background Papers:

Full details of the applicants are available in the Members Reading Room or at request from the Town Clerk.

Contact:

Esther Sumner / esther.sumner@cityoflondon.gov.uk / 1481