

Committee(s)	Dated:
Culture, Heritage and Libraries	10/06/2017
Subject: City Arts Initiative: recommendations to the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee	Public
Report of: Peter Lisley – Assistant Town Clerk and Cultural Hub Director	For Decision
Report author: Alex Hugo, City Culture Executive	

Summary

This report presents the recommendations of the City Arts Initiative (CAI) which met on 2 June 2017. At this meeting, the CAI considered the following proposals:

- **Art Night, Gunes Terkol:** resubmission of proposal for permanent mural for the Middlesex Street Estate.
- **Cultural Hub, Quick Wins:** proposal for some artistic interventions in the Cultural Hub area to be realised for the official launch of the Cultural Hub in July 2017.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Ratify the City Arts Initiative's recommendations in relation to the above proposals as follows:
 - **Art Night, Gunes Terkol:** approve the creation and installation of this artwork subject to confirmation of agreement of projected life of artwork and of responsibility for annual maintenance costs with relevant department.
 - **Cultural Hub, Quick Wins:** approve the installation of the proposed temporary artistic interventions from July to October 2017, in and around the Cultural Hub area, subject to relevant planning being obtained and resident consultation sought.

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 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 Mrs Barbara Newman to sit on the City Arts Initiative in the 2015/16 Committee year.
3. Apart from officer time handling enquiries and looking after the installations, there are no resource implications other than where specifically noted.

Current Position

4. The CAI met on 2 June 2017 to consider the proposals outlined below.
5. Full details of all the applications to the CAI are available on request from the Assistant Town Clerk and Cultural Hub Director.

Proposals

Art Night, Gunes Terkol

6. Art Night is a free contemporary arts festival that transforms London for one summer night. Each year, a leading cultural institution and curator are invited to work in a different area of London, exploring its history, culture and architecture.
7. Art Night 2017, curated by Fatos Ustek with the Whitechapel Gallery, will take place in the City of London and the East End, activating 10-12 iconic or unusual venues. The trail will connect the busy areas of Brick Lane, Spitalfields and Tower Bridge through Aldgate and Whitechapel, to create a stronger sense of destination and highlight their extraordinary history and heritage.
8. The CAI received a resubmission of a proposal initially considered at the January 2017 CAI meeting for the creation and installation of a permanent mural in the Middlesex Street Estate developed with local residents, led by Turkish artist Gunes Terkol.
9. The Art Night team and artist, Gunes Terkol, have been working with the residents and with the City Corporation's Housing Team on the development of the proposal for this mural.
10. The CAI were supportive of the more detailed re-submission with images of the proposed site and of the design for the mural and noted that the mural would enliven and bring some much needed colour to the area.

11. Some minor concerns were raised over responsibility for the required annual maintenance of the artwork; and, bearing in mind the porous nature of the concrete wall site proposed, a projected life-span for the artwork, both of which are not covered in the application.
12. The CAI recommends the mural for approval subject to confirmation of agreement of projected life-span of artwork and of responsibility for annual maintenance costs with the relevant department.

Cultural Hub, Quick Wins, Phase 1

13. Timed to coincide with the launch of the Cultural Hub in July 2017, it is proposed that a number of temporary artistic interventions be installed in the Cultural Hub area:
 - a. *Shadowing*, Chomko & Rosier, uses existing streetlights to install a device to record and playback the shadows of those who have passed underneath.
 - b. *Folk in a Box*, this tiny performance venue, proposed for 6 streetlights on Cromwell Place, has a proven track record of providing unique and moving performance experiences for audiences in festival and installation settings in the UK and internationally. Audiences experience a one-on-one live music performance, giving them an unforgettable musical moment to take with them, and opening up audience response and feedback afterwards as well. For those not engaging in the experience, the 'Box' also provides an engaging focal point to encourage curiosity in the Cultural Hub and aid way-finding to the Barbican Centre and GSMD main entrances.
 - c. Morag Myerscough is a high-profile arts and design professional who is very experienced in producing large scale artistic interventions in the public realm. Her work, proposed for Silk Street and the Smithfield Rotunda Garden, would provide an immediate and visible impact within the Cultural Hub area, marking it out as a creative destination, aiding way-finding for visitors and visually connecting the East-West spine of the Cultural Hub.
14. *Shadowing* and Morag Myerscough's installations are proposed to be in situ from 20 July to late October 2017. *Folk in a Box* is scheduled for a two week installation across August/early September 2017 only. Performances will be scheduled in two hour sessions during the day. The suggested format is for one lunchtime session and one late afternoon session per day, Wednesday – Sunday.
15. CAI were supportive of these proposals but raised concerns that residents were to be consulted and that relevant planning approval sought, noting that some of the sites contain listed features.
16. It was confirmed that discussions were underway with Planning and Built Environment colleagues; and that plans for resident consultation were underway.

17. The CAI recommends the Cultural Hub, Quick Wins Phase 1 proposal for approval, subject to relevant planning agreement and resident consultation.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

18. The City Arts Initiative was formed to support the City's management of public art which supports the delivery of the City's Cultural and Visitor Strategies.

Conclusion

19. This report summarises the discussions of the City Arts Initiative and presents recommendations in relation to the public art applications considered on 2 June 2017.

Background Papers

Full details of the applications received by the City Arts Initiative are available on request from the Assistant Town Clerk and Cultural Hub Director.

Alex Hugo

City Culture Executive

T: 020 7332 3567

E: alex.hugo@cityoflondon.gov.uk