

# City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group

Wednesday, 22nd February, 2023

## THE CITY HALL/CITY HALL GROUNDS INSTALLATIONS WORKING GROUP MINUTES

### HYBRID MEETING IN THE CONOR ROOM

Members present: Councillor Beattie (Chairperson);  
Alderman Dorrian; and  
Councillor Lyons.

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;  
Ms. K. Mullen, Project Sponsor;  
Mr. M. Doherty, Project Manager;  
Mr. C. Shields, Assistant Project Manger; and  
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor O'Hara.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 14th December, 2022 were taken as read and signed as correct.

### **City Hall Statues Update on Moderation (Verbal Update)**

The Project Sponsor reminded the Members that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 28th March 2022, had agreed that the City Hall Statues – Winifred Carney and Mary Ann McCracken be moved to Stage 3; committed on the Capital Programme; and that the necessary procurement processes be initiated, as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous tenders and full commitment to deliver.

She advised the Working Group that, of the five artists which had been shortlisted to ITT (invitation to tender) stage, four of the artists had submitted their proposals and the moderation panel had considered the submissions against the following themes: Quality; Social Value and Price.

The Working Group were presented with maquettes and visual aids of each proposal for inspection. The Project Sponsor and Assistant Project Manager provided an

overview of the artist concepts, together with the feedback from the moderation panel and its recommendations.

During discussion, the Working Group provided feedback on each of the proposals. The Director of Physical Programme's reminded Members that the details of the proposals and outcome of the Moderation Panel was confidential, until the appointment of a selected artist had been made.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the information which had been provided and that the recommendations and feedback from the Moderation Panel and Working Group would be submitted to the Strategic and Policy Resources Committee for consideration.

### **Frederick Douglass Update**

The Working Group was reminded that Endeavour Art Studio (Alan Herriot Beattie) was appointed to manufacture and install a statue of Frederick Douglass.

It was reported that the design team visited Belfast in December 2022 for a site visit and the location had been agreed as the junction of Rosemary Street/Lombard Street. Manufacture of the piece was progressing with a mould of the finished statue ready for sign off in the foundry.

In relation to the public unveiling and an associated programme of events, the Project Sponsor highlighted that Professor Christine Kinealy (subject matter expert) would be in Ireland lecturing at a conference on 21st or 22nd June, and suggested that the public unveiling could take place on Friday, 23rd June or Monday, 26th June, subject to Professor Kinealy's availability.

The Project Sponsor outlined the initial proposals for the unveiling:

- Formal unveiling by Lord Mayor of Belfast and Minister for Communities (part funder);
- Number of Frederick Douglass walking tours (facilitated by Professor Kinealy);
- Update the Frederick Douglass walking tour brochure to include the location of the new statue;
- Lecture/talk/debate at City Hall or another venue with a direct link to Frederick Douglass, with a focus on how Frederick Douglass beliefs, views, campaigns were very much relevant in today's world, for example: the links to slavery, human trafficking, women's rights, poverty and education. Should funding be available there was the potential to seek a local media person to chair the panel.

With regard to invitations for the official unveiling, the Working Group were informed that it was proposed to extend an invitation to: the US Ambassador to Northern Ireland, Joe Kennedy III of Massachusetts; The US Consulate and Consul General Paul Narain; and the Council's Sister Cities connection.

The Project Sponsor advised that regular updates would be provided to the Working Group during this process, however, due to Local Government Elections, the next Working Group was scheduled for 7th June, 2023.

During discussion, one Member suggested the option of a Lord Mayors' reception for Professor Kinealy and highlighted the international interest in the statue.

After discussion, the Working Group:

- Noted the progress with the design and manufacture of the Frederick Douglass statue; and
- Noted the public unveiling arrangements and agreed to the proposed dates and associated programme of events, as outlined in the report.

### **Permanent Acknowledgement to Fire Service Belfast Blitz**

The Working Group was reminded that, at its meeting on 26th October, 2022, it had been agreed that further discussions would take place with a view to a permanent acknowledgement of all fire service efforts during the Belfast Blitz.

The Project Sponsor advised that the discussions had since taken place with representatives from the Fire Brigade Unions, both Belfast and Dublin, and it had been suggested that a permanent piece in the form of a resin cast of a fire brigade helmet be procured and installed. She highlighted that there had also been a request that such acknowledgement included the Auxiliary Fire Services for their efforts during the Belfast Blitz.

The Project Sponsor explained that the piece would be located initially in the Rotunda of the City Hall for a defined period of time and subsequently relocated to the City Hall exhibition.

The Working Group:

- Agreed to the installation of a permanent memorial to acknowledge all of the Fire Service efforts during the Belfast Blitz, as outlined; and
- Agreed that the project be included as an Emerging Project on Council's Capital Programme.

Chairperson