

CHAPTER ONE

PUBLIC ART FRAMEWORK

you can't stand still

NKprojects



key routes



ST
PAUL
MINN



SAINT PAUL'S NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

CHAPTER ONE : PUBLIC ART FRAMEWORK

PUBLIC ART FRAMEWORK

“ you can't stand still ”



Public Art in St. Paul's is a reflection of and a statement about the character, spirit and aspirations of the community.

This Public Arts Framework will provide the starting point for future arts commissions, allowing for a consistency of vision and a benchmark for quality of art in the public realm. Art which contributes to the neighbourhood's external environment and animates public spaces.

Our thanks to Nayan Kulkarni (NKProjects) and Beth Morafon (Co-creative) for putting together, in collaboration with local artists, this Public Arts Framework for St. Paul's.

The key parameters for the approach taken are:

Celebrate and promote St. Paul's as a multi-cultural centre of Bristol

Make public spaces attractive and safe for all ages

Ensure all capital/building developments integrate artistic expression and community arts from the outset

Develop training, mentoring and professional development for artists

Establish a vehicle for sustained delivery of art in the longer term

Create a route to funding to support arts in the public realm

In St. Paul's there are a number of key issues which the Framework seeks to address:

Art that has a strong relationship to the locality

Art that speaks to and engages with local people

Functional, be that a physical object or strategic event

Projects that offer opportunities for residents and local artists

Image "The Sankofa Bird" part of a mosaic pavement outside the St Paul's Family and Learning Centre, Grosvenor Road. This mosaic was made by well known local artist Barbara Disney

High quality

Work that positively reflects and influences the image of the locality

Art that is integrated into the fabric and thinking of new buildings, streetscapes and spaces

Art that enhances and increases social activity

Art that encourages community connections

Art that is strategically located to enhance the linkages between St. Paul's and its neighbours

“ you can't stand still ”

This phrase, coined by Cathy Archer, a local artist, is used here to describe thoughts and feelings about living and working in St. Paul's. It suggests a number of complex meanings about change, growth, movement & social structures. It usefully frames both positive and negative meanings, and suggests approaches to new art in the public realm.

This theme forms the over-arching project to explore, document and support arts activities in the public realm. A research-based artist-in-residence methodology that “you can't stand still” will underpin the philosophy for all projects under this framework. This places an understanding of and a relationship with the locality at the heart of all new commissions.

Vital to the successful implementation of a joined-up approach to public arts is the Steering Group. This will be a small group of local residents, local artists and the public arts representative from the City Council. Again, to ensure that Public Art aids in developing a shared vision across task groups working in St. Paul's – there must be strong links between this Steering Group – whose work will be funding and project-driven – the External Environment, Planning Sub-group and the Arts and Culture Task Groups; either through shared representation, or through joint discussion and reporting of the work of the steering group.

The Steering Group will have two working relationships –

A creative and supportive role in relation to realisation of new art in the Streetscape and Green Links Proposals identified in the Traffic and Streetscape Study.

A strategic role in relation to recommending and advising private developers on the conceptual content of public art included within major new developments.

The Role of the Steering group is thus to –

Develop and advocate a shared vision

Support the curator / administrator

Review artist's submissions

Select artists for projects

Broker relationships between artists, local projects and the community

There will be a need for a Curator/Administrator. This can either be the Public Arts Officer of the BCC or a freelance consultant, who, supported by the Steering Group will work to –

Advise, support and mentor artists involved in projects

Coordinate relationships between artists, the steering group and developers

Coordinate the compiling of lists of potential artists for consideration by the steering group

Coordinate information relating to the framework and projects within the framework

Maintain conceptual clarity and vision

Participatory Art

There are 7 strands of practice which will need to be managed by the Steering Group:-

1 Integrated Art

Collaborations between artists, communities and design professionals help to build art and artists ideas into the fabric of St. Paul's . The Steering group will have an important role to play in supporting developers to accommodate a new team structure that includes the arts as an equal member of the design team.

2

Strategic Locations – refer to diagram x

Art works and projects should have a strong relationship with St. Paul's, reinforcing its physical and social connections with adjoining areas of the city, and developing internal places and spaces within the neighbourhood including:

- Entrance points- drawing people in rather than marking a perimeter
- Social Spaces
- Public Squares
- Stokes Croft
- Journeys and Routes

3

Streets – refer to diagram y

Strategic use of art integrated into the streets will help to support and enrich the experience of living and moving through St. Paul's. This will help to develop

- Their appearance
- When they are used
- What they mean
- How they are used
- The diversity of people who use them

4

Temporary Art

Temporary art is an extremely effective way for artists, the public, spaces and artworks to form dialogues. Major events and more intimate works can engage people in imaginative and critical thinking about the use and value of public space. Temporary events also provide the opportunity for closed off 'unsafe' spaces to become resituated in the imaginative map of St. Paul's

5

Light Based Art - refer to diagram z

An enhanced use of well designed street lighting is critical to addressing key community concerns about visibility and safety at night. Artists working with light designers/engineers can develop art works that take this process into an imaginative and site-specific journey.

- Identifies key pedestrian route
- A unique contribution to street safety
- Change the night time experience of St. Paul's

6 Green Spaces

Public Art will have a crucial role in expanding the value of green spaces in St. Paul's. Temporary works highlight the spaces and encourage people to feel safe, make the spaces visible and remind people of their public ownership. Permanent works

- **Change their status**
- **Change the way they are understood**
- **Increase their use and enhance their role**
- **Develop community ownership and responsibility**

7 Art through Dialogue

Art and artists can contribute most effectively if the projects grow out of dialogue. Public art in St. Paul's can best be implemented if the projects are structured in a way that artists, community and design teams work in partnership. Be it sculpture, painting, mosaic, lighting, installation – the ideas and processes used to make the work are more important than the medium.

The Steering Group will encourage artists to work with the ideas of the site and develop in dialogue with the site and the design teams, to allow the artists to think beyond their current practice and try out new things.

Art and creativity has, from the outset, been recognised as having a fundamental role in the creation of a welcoming and vibrant neighbourhood in St. Paul's. The two projects proposed here are directed at ensuring the investment that goes into public art in the neighbourhood also makes a significant contribution to the safety and security of the public spaces and places that people use every day and in the evenings.

The framework will be brought to life through two major Proposals

Streetscape (Diagram Y)

The lead artist will have primary responsibility to collaborate with the streetscape design teams as individual elements are rolled out.

They will :

- 1** Develop art works in partnership with the design team with a particular focus on the street junctions of City Road and Grosvenor Road, City Road and Stokes Croft, and Stokes Croft and Jamaica Street.

Each of these more local interventions need to be intimate, developed with a specific artist for the pedestrian, so as to avoid adding to the visual noise of these major street junctions.

- 2 Support the opportunities for specific and cohesive single commissions for implementation by others such as designs for functional items like tree grills, street furniture or lighting schemes.
- 3 Work with the steering group to mentor artists working on smaller streetscape projects.

Green Links (Diagramme Z)

This is a proposal which has as significant a role as that of the streetscapes. The lead artist will :

- 1 Develop a light-based temporary exhibition – “you can’t stand still” after dark – for the key pedestrian route linking St. Paul’s green spaces.
- 2 The ideas and themes that this project exposes will form the brief for phase two which will develop artwork integrated into the scheme designs for Portland Square, St. Paul’s Park, Brunswick Cemetery, outdoor amenity spaces and links across the neighbourhood. This second phase could have as many as 12 discreet opportunities for commissions along the Green Link.

Lead Artist Roles

Due to the complexity and timescales of the community regeneration activity, engaging lead artists for the major elements of the program of public arts is recommended as the most robust way of working. Each project will respond to the themes and issues outlined above, but have quite a different context for realised artworks.

The Streetscape project will have an emphasis on integrated approaches to public art.

The Green Link project will emphasise the personal and intimate, generating narratives along the Green Link. On each of these the Lead Artist will have a role in developing opportunities and mentoring emerging artists through the commissioning process.

In stage one the lead artists will work in a conceptual and curatorial manner, facilitating and mentoring other practitioners to develop their approaches and practice. This layered approach will thus be flexible enough to work with the stop-go nature of regeneration projects and funding, and open up opportunities for more local interventions.

Springboard

Training and mentoring opportunities need to be addressed on a project basis. The idea of Springboard is to allow a broad concept of training and artist development in St. Paul’s, and ensure that this targets a broad range of creative practitioners attracting artists from different disciplines and cultural backgrounds

Springboard will operate by identifying emerging artists, established artists, and local residencies, with mentoring relationships written into the brief, allowing appropriate time for this to happen.

For more details on Springboard, see the full report.

It has been suggested that the Steering Group participate in a go-see research visit to build the team and provide a common starting point for their work and understanding. An example would be a trip to Lyon for the Festival of Light in December 2006.

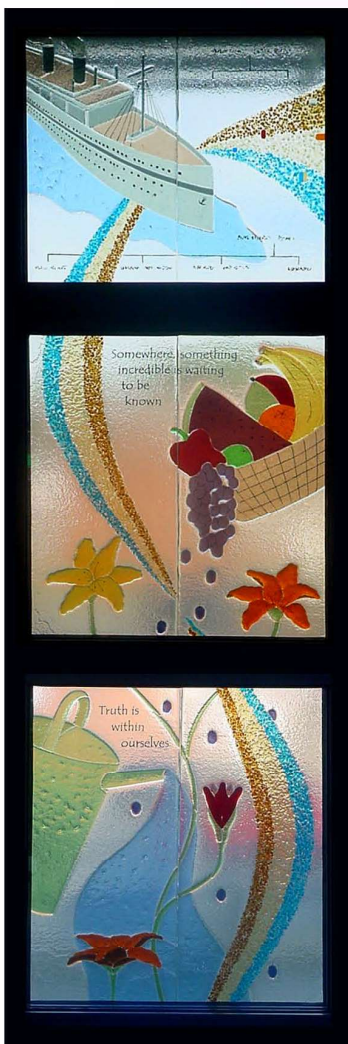
December 2006 tbc (Every year)

Lyon's most famous event takes the form of a glorious illumination throughout the city. Since 1852, locals have celebrated the anniversary of a spontaneous demonstration of faith and solidarity that followed the unveiling of a statue of the Virgin Mary on the Fourvière hillside.

The ceremony was originally planned for 8 September 1852, but had to be postponed due to bad weather. Rescheduled for 8 December, it was threatened again by an incipient storm. However, the clouds lifted and the population came out en masse to celebrate the occasion, armed with lights and lanterns in their thousands.

To this day, the event is remembered with a display of lights: each house and each window is illuminated, and a procession is held by lantern-light. With the dark nights of winter descending, this is a beautiful way to make the most of the dark.

A host of concerts and activities are planned around the procession, which has now been extended to become an action-packed four-day festival.



A number of other specific proposals for the artists' practice and the work of the Steering Group are included in the Final report : "you can't stand still", Framework for Art in the Public Realm, St.Paul's, Bristol, available on the SPCUP website.

This document needs to form the core practice documents for the Public Arts Steering Group



*Glass panels at The St Paul's Family and Learning Centre, Grosvenor Road.
Created by local artist Chris Trow.*

Delivery of the framework will be through a programme developed by the Steering Group, ratified by SPUCP, and funded through a variety of sources including capital project funding, contributions from new development, BCC Public Arts Strategy, South West Regional Development Agency Community Initiative Funding, and project-specific grants – for example:

PROJECT

This is a national two-year (2004-2006) pilot scheme supported by CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment) and Arts & Business, and developed and managed by Public Art South West.

PROJECT provides grants to support collaboration between artists and design, planning and construction professionals, working pro-actively with the public and private sector agencies on projects in the built environment.

There are six different awards of between £2,000 and £15,000. There will be 10-15 awards annually across the country. Individuals are not eligible to apply. Initially, application is through consultation with the Scheme Manager.

Tel: 01392 229266.

Email info@project-awards.org.uk

Website: www.project-awards.org.uk



you can't stand still

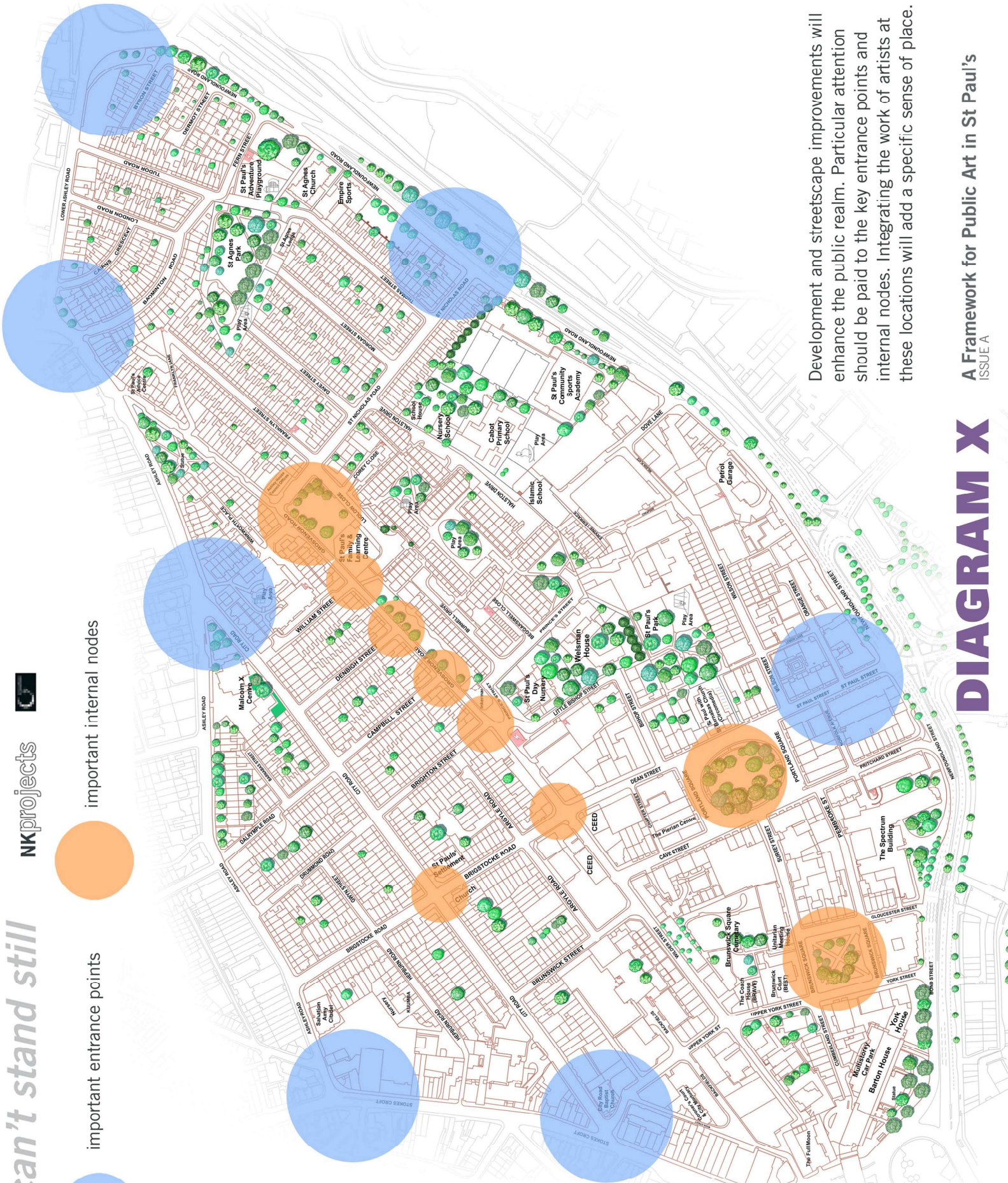
NKprojects



important entrance points



important internal nodes



Development and streetscape improvements will enhance the public realm. Particular attention should be paid to the key entrance points and internal nodes. Integrating the work of artists at these locations will add a specific sense of place.

DIAGRAM X

A Framework for Public Art in St Paul's
ISSUE A

you can't stand still

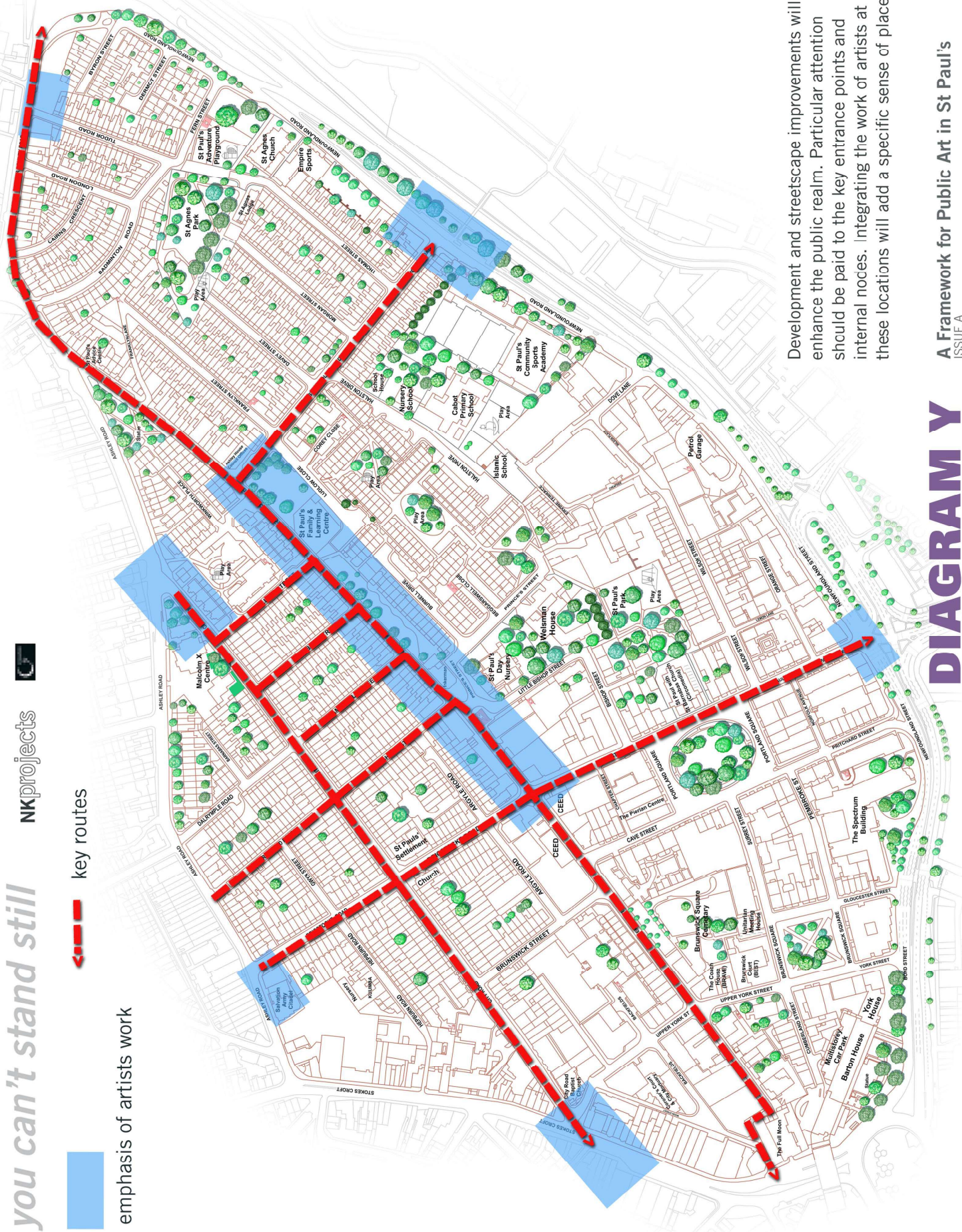


NKprojects

key routes

emphasis of artists work

DIAGRAM X, ENTRANCE POINTS AND INTERNAL NODES



Development and streetscape improvements will enhance the public realm. Particular attention should be paid to the key entrance points and internal nodes. Integrating the work of artists at these locations will add a specific sense of place.

DIAGRAM Y

A Framework for Public Art in St Paul's
ISSUE A

Green Link: After Dark



The artists will be challenged to think about how their work can have a significant role in enhancing the after dark experience of the pedestrian route through St Pauls. Artworks that consider light as a principle element could add narrative and difference to the route.

you can't stand still



DIAGRAM Z

A Framework for Public Art in St Paul's
ISSUE A

Public Art Framework - Actions

ACTION	DETAIL	RESPONSIBILITY	COST	TIMESCALE	INDICATOR OF SUCCESS
1.1	Form a Steering Group with representation from local residents, local artists and BCC Public Arts Officer	SPUCP		IMMEDIATE 1 - 3 YEARS WITHIN 5 YEARS 5 - 10 YEARS	Steering Group formed, forum held quarterly
1.2	Go-See research visit for Steering Group	Public Arts Steering Group/facilitated by BCC	£ 10,000	1 - 3 YEARS	Steering Group visit to major city art event (learning through experience)
1.3	<p>Seek employment of a curator/ facilitator reporting to the Steering Group to oversee delivery of the framework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Advise, support and mentor artists involved in projects ➢ Coordinate relationships between artists, the Steering Group and developers ➢ Coordinate the compiling of lists of potential artists for consideration by the Steering Group ➢ Coordinate information relating to the framework and projects within the framework ➢ Maintain conceptual clarity and vision ➢ Source funding/advise artists on sources of funding 	BCC working with SPUCP and Arts & Culture Task Group	£ 10,000 OVER 3 YEARS	IMMEDIATE	<p>Steering group feel fully supported in their role</p> <p>Consistency of approach to potential public art projects</p> <p>Single point of contact for developers, funders and organisations assisting in delivery of public art projects</p> <p>Strong lines of communication between Steering Group and the wider community</p> <p>Broad vision to aid steering group to deliver quality</p>
1.4	" you can't stand still " residency project to explore, document and support public arts activities, developing the commissioning themes for future projects	Steering Group	£ 78,000	1 - 3 YEARS	Involvement of 10% of local population in dialogue and activity related to public art proposals
1.5	Streetscape lead artist appointment	Steering Group	£ 210,300	WITHIN 5 YEARS	As indicated
1.6	Green Links lead artist appointment	Steering Group	£ 209,850	WITHIN 5 YEARS	As indicated
1.7	➢ Light-based installation	Commissioning Body	£ 134,000	WITHIN 5 YEARS	Attract visitors to and through St. Paul's at night: Reduce fear and vulnerability of pedestrians in the area
1.8	➢ Temporary Works	Commissioning Body	Part of the above	1 - 3 YEARS	Raise profile of St. Paul's as a cultural community
1.9	➢ Permanent Works	Commissioning Body	Part of the above	3 - 5 YEARS	Contribute to the quality, attractiveness of and satisfaction with the neighbourhood

Directory of funding bodies and grants available for Public Arts projects/programmes can be viewed at: www.publicartonline.org.uk/practical/funding.html