**HULL UK CITY OF CULTURE 2017 – ‘LOOK UP’**

A year-long programme of artists’ works made specifically for Hull’s public spaces and places.

**‘The City Speaks’** by Michael Pinsky 03.02 -31.12.17

**1 INTRODUCTION**

* 1. ‘The City Speaks’ is proposed as a temporary, interactive work for the public realm conceived by the artist Michael Pinsky and developed in collaboration with The Light Lab. It employs voice recognition software which will convert participants’ speech to be displayed live as scrolling text on a large scale custom built screen.
  2. The screen has been designed for installation within the glazed west stairwell of the Hull Tidal Barrier and measures 16m high x 2m wide.
  3. The installation will use software knows as Cloud Speech API which has been developed by Google to convert audio speech to text. Speech API can stream text results, with the recognized text appearing immediately while speaking and can filter inappropriate content.
  4. The same software is being used in a series of benches which Hull City Council have commissioned from the artist for sites within the city centre areas currently being addressed by the programme of public realm improvements. A prototype was recently demonstrated, the link to the video clip is <https://youtu.be/3kExOCrtpJY>

1. **VIDEO SCREEN**
   1. The screen will be manufactured in sections on the basis of a customised arrangement of ultra-light-weight LED video modules with a 60mm pixel pitch. The screen has been designed to align with the structure of the glazing to the west stairwell, which was surveyed earlier in the year by Light Lab. The LED modules will be set within a Unistrut frame which will be fixed to the glazing’s horizontal beams using Lindaptor clamps.
   2. The ‘video screen’ is designed on the basis of minimal impact to the glazing structure, maintaining its integrity and free movement within the space of the stairwell itself.
2. **MICROPHONE & LECTERN**
   1. The microphone point will be located within a custom designed, robust ‘lectern’ to be sited on Humber Dock Promenade, aligned with Humber Street to provide a strong visual connection with the Tidal Surge Barrier.
   2. There will be two points in the structure into which people can speak, thereby providing access to the work for people of all abilities including wheelchair users.
   3. Protocols will be adopted to ensure that inappropriate speech content is filtered out and if necessary a log will be established to retain a record of transmitted text for an agreed period of time. This will be manged through remote monitoring and control via a web link.
3. **RESPONSIBILITIES**
   1. Hull 2017 will be the commissioning body, responsible for the procurement, maintenance, promotion and content management of the artwork.
   2. The artist, Michael Pinsky, will be commissioned by Hull 2017 and Light Lab will be contracted to provide detailed designs and specifications, supply, install and commission the various elements which comprise the work. The work will be subject to a 12 month warranty and Light Lab will ongoing support and maintenance should this be required.
   3. All detail design and specifications will be subject to review and approval by Hull 2017 and the Environment Agency prior to taking the work to the next stage.
   4. All work will be independently inspected to ensure that it complies with approved designs and specifications.
   5. Light Lab will be responsible for submitting RAMS for approval by Hull 2017 and the Environment Agency.
   6. Hull 2017 will look to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Environment Agency as the means by which to record consent to use the site for the installation of the work, conditions consistent with such consent and the management protocols with respect to the operation of the artwork.