

City of London welcomes talking statues Transcript

0:04

hi my name is Liana Boyle and I work for

0:06

the City of London Corporation and I'm

0:08

here today at dr. Johnson's house for

0:10

the launch of the talking statues arts

0:12

program this is an amazing program that

0:16

brings the statues to life enabling them

0:18

to talk and tell you what's on their

0:20

mind there's lots of different artists

0:22

and writers involved in this project and

0:24

several of these statues nine of them

0:26

are actually based in the city itself

0:28

and giving the opportunity to walk

0:30

around our streets and really engage

0:32

with the statues that we have here i'm

0:34

here at took the statue i'm going to

0:37

give hodge the cat underneath d open up

0:42

my QR reader when I scan this code like

0:51

go

0:54

I gotta go can you hear it

1:00

I answered my phone I got Nicholas

1:10

persons voice telling me about Hajj and

1:14

being Hodge who was Samuel Johnson's cat

1:17

and telling me all about why he's in the

1:18

square and what he's up to and how his

1:21
master used to bring him Easter's for
1:24
dinner well the idea is that statues
1:27
will start talking all over London and
1:29
many are in the City of London and the
1:31
idea is that by using new technology to
1:35
give the statues a voice we can persuade
1:37
people to look at these things that we
1:39
often pass by unnoticed Hodge was a very
1:42
active animal and very much known in the
1:45
locality and the fact that he now who'd
1:47
now can talk to the general public gives
1:49
him such great credence it's an amazing
1:53
and inspired contribution to the city it
1:56
seemed such an attractive idea i mean
1:59
slightly dotty but we have so much
2:04
wonderful statuary in the country and
2:06
particularly in London particularly in
2:08
the city and I think we will look at
2:11
Saskatchewan with it oh yes yes yes I
2:14
must must google him when i get home and
2:17
you forget so just to have an
2:19
opportunity to get a quick sketch of
2:22
that person and what they stood for i
2:25
think it's very good you want people to
2:28
enjoy the streets come into the city of

2:30
london don't think it's just one
2:33
building with lots of buildings and lots
2:35
of wonderful architecture and marvelous
2:37
things going on in the city that people
2:39
forget about just like this project
2:41
champions liberty for the individual and
2:45
particularly
2:46
was outspoken against King George the
2:48
third I'm now in front of the John
2:51
Wilkes statue on fetter Lane and if you
2:54
want to hear the statue talk you just
2:55
look for the purple plaque there on all
2:57
of the statues as part of the talking
2:59
statues program so I'm going to few now
3:01
so you can see how easy it is to do I'm
3:03
going to use the QR reader then you
3:06
follow the directions it's very simple
3:07
it will come up on your screen you just
3:09
hit go it will then call you and then
3:12
the statue will speak to you 20 minutes
3:14
or I'll have talked my face away and
3:17
we'll be upstairs yes I enjoy this title
3:20
quite as much as I enjoy being called a
3:23
demagogue a wit a charlatan and a
3:26
pornographer so this is a really great

3:29

way of engaging with these statues gives

3:31

you so much more than just looking at

3:32

them it gives you a flavor of their

3:34

personality so much more you can get

3:37

from just looking at them