

Our Ref.: RA/3834

3 March 2017

Ms Sarah Birt  
Planning Policy and Decisions Team  
London Legacy Development Corporation  
1 Stratford Place  
London E20 1EJ

Dear Ms Birt,

**Hackney Wick Central Outline Planning Application**

Application Ref: 16/00166/OUT (amended details consultation)

I write regarding the amended details submitted for the above outline planning application relating to the site known as Hackney Wick Central. The Theatres Trust continues to support the application. Please note our comments only relate to aspects of the application concerning The Yard Theatre, as per our remit.

**Remit:** The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. We champion the past, present and future of live theatre, by protecting the buildings and what goes on inside. We were established through the Theatres Trust Act 1976 'to promote the better protection of theatres' and provide statutory planning advice on theatre buildings and theatre use in England through The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (DMPO), requiring the Trust to be consulted by local authorities on planning applications which include 'development involving any land on which there is a theatre'.

**Comment:** The Trust continues to support the outline proposal for Hackney Wick Central and the retention and promotion of the cultural industries currently operating in the area, particularly the provision of a new theatre site and facility to replace The Yard when their current building is redeveloped.

The amended details submitted do not change our previous comments and our advice remains unchanged. That advice is that while the proposed theatre site is well located and accessible, we note the indicative images used for the theatre are based on initial design concepts, not the current plans. Flexibility will, therefore, need to be enshrined in any outline planning permission granted to allow for a suitable final design reflecting the theatre's specific cultural and operational needs in terms of design, layout, and support uses, and this may include temporary and phased development.

This advice reflects guidance in paragraph 70 of the NPPF which provides clear guidance on the importance of safeguarding cultural facilities and states that in 'promoting healthy communities', planning decisions should 'plan positively for cultural buildings' and 'guard against

**Theatres Trust**

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**Chair** Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

**Trustees** Nick Allott OBE, Richard Baldwin, Dara Ó Briain, Paddy Dillon, Ruth Eastwood, Oliver Goodwin, Prof Gavin Henderson CBE, Jerry Katzman, Dame Penelope Keith DL, Judith Mellor OBE, Peter Roberts, Simon Ruddick, Ann Skippers, Anna Stapleton

The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund co-operates with Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697

## Protecting theatres for **everyone**



the loss of cultural facilities and services’.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Ross Anthony  
Planning Adviser

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