

Our Ref.:3949

28 November 2017

Lasma Putrina
Planning
London Borough of Southwark
PO Box 64529
London SE1P 5LX

Dear Lasma Putrina,

The Bunker Theatre, 53a Southwark Street, London SE1 1RU

Application Ref: 17/AP/4213 and 17/AP/4214

I write regarding the above planning applications for alterations to the entrance ramp area and new signage at The Bunker Theatre. The Theatres Trust supports the applications. Please see our advice below.

Remit: The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. 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 through The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, requiring the Trust to be consulted by local authorities on planning applications which include 'development involving any land on which there is a theatre'.

Advice: The Trust actively encourages the owners and operators of theatres and cultural venues to invest in their buildings to ensure they meet current building, access and safety standards, and the needs and expectations of staff, performers and the audience. We therefore support this proposal to install terracing over the existing entry ramp. The level areas and relocated bar will make more efficient and better use of this area, and provide a more comfortable waiting and assembly area than the existing slope permits, while maintaining full accessibility for wheel chair users. The existing bar has limitations, including low head height, and being able to hold the audience in the area outside the main theatre allows for technical and operational work in the auditorium to be carried out without being interrupted by the audience.

With regards the proposed signage, unlike most theatres, The Bunker's location means it doesn't have a street presence as such and signage is therefore vital for wayfinding. Given the nature of the adjoining uses, the illumination proposed is unlikely to have a negative impact and will help make the theatre stand out in the streetscape.

Overall, this proposal should have a positive impact on the future operation of the theatre, and we recommend granting planning permission.

Theatres Trust

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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

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ross Anthony', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ross Anthony
Planning Consultant