

Our Ref.: RA/1863

15 December 2017

David Brettell  
Planning Services  
Manchester City Council

Dear Mr Brettell,

**The Opera House, Quay Street, Manchester, M3 3HP**

Application: 118311/LO/2017

I write to support the above listed building application to replace the main entry doors at The Opera House.

**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 in England 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'.

**Comment:** The Trust actively encourages theatre owners and operators to invest in their buildings to ensure they meet current building and safety standards and the expectations of audiences, staff, and performers. We therefore support this application to improve safety and security at the Opera House, and agree with the rationale provided in the supporting documentation.

In terms of the impact of this proposal on the heritage significance of the theatre, while the loss of historic building fabric such as the doors and frames is always regrettable, we note that previous fixes have not worked and there is now a strong need to replace the doors to address security issues and environmental conditions within the foyer for audience comfort. As the proposed doors will replicate the existing set and reuse the existing pull handles, we agree the impact is minimal and the overall benefit to the ongoing operation of the theatre clearly outweighs any harm caused to this heritage asset.

We therefore recommend granting listed building consent. Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Ross Anthony  
Planning Consultant

**Theatres Trust**

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