

Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/2028

15 June 2018

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Pending Applications
Development Planning
City of Westminster
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By e-mail: southplanningteam@westminster.gov.uk

Application: 18/04214/LBC

Site: Wyndhams Theatre, Charing Cross Road, London, WC2H 0DA

Proposal: Alterations to stalls bar including relocation of existing bar, raising central section of ceiling, and addition of banquette seating.

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:

Thank you for consulting the Theatres Trust on the above application.

The Trust is supportive of efforts by theatre operators to invest in their buildings to improve the experience of their audiences. The applicant has identified challenges presented by the existing layout and appearance of the stalls bar at Wyndham's Theatre, such as congestion caused by high audience flows within a relatively confined space, poor lighting and previous refurbishment and installation of ventilation which aren't consistent with the building's original character. Works proposed within this application will help rectify those concerns.

The moving of the bar by 400mm is not a significant distance, but will nonetheless assist in improving audience flows by creating some additional space. A smaller bar area also improves the efficiency of service. We welcome that reconfiguration of the ceiling void and modification of the downstand over the bar will recreate the appearance of original mouldings and other architectural features. Improved lighting is similarly welcomed, as is the introduction of new banquette seating.

Theatres Trust

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Chair Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

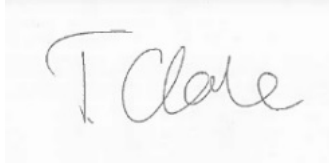
Trustees Richard Baldwin, David Blyth, Pam Bone, Paul Cartwright, Paddy Dillon, Ruth Eastwood, David Ian, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Dara Ó Briain, Simon Ricketts, Peter Roberts, Ann Skippers, Anna Stapleton

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

Therefore we support this proposal and **recommend the granting of listed building consent.**

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "T Clarke", on a light-colored rectangular background.

Tom Clarke
National Planning Adviser