

Ref.: TC/206

22 October 2018

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**Application:** 18/07087/LBC

**Site:** Theatre Royal Catherine Street London WC2B 5JF

**Proposal:** Internal works to the Rotunda including replacement of the existing floor finish with stone flooring, foyer steps, replacement of the existing balustrade, removal of the Three Graces, and a new plinth for the Shakespeare bust; installation of concealed services beneath the new floor, replacement of the existing floor finish with a brick finish and relocation of the existing bar to the middle of the room and proposed lighting at Grand Saloon; external works including amendments to a single window on the Russell Street facade, removal of railings on Catherine Street and removal of tripod light fittings on Catherine Street elevation..

**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 listed building consent, which has been submitted alongside a number of applications and listed building consents associated with works at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane.

Having reviewed the submitted plans and documents and visited the theatre, we are supportive of what has been proposed.

Within the Rotunda, the removal of the existing carpet and replacement with stone flooring represents a reversion to the rotunda's original appearance. We consider that this will significantly improve the appearance of the rotunda and emphasise its grandeur, historic

**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

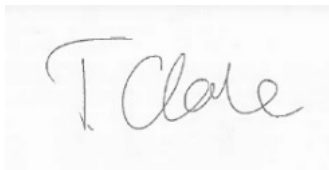
character and architectural significance. The insertion of concealed services beneath the floor will offer the theatre the flexibility to utilise the space for functions service additional sales points if required. We similarly support other works proposed within this area of the theatre.

Within the Grand Saloon the relocation of the bar to the middle of the room will assist with the overall improvement of this area which will help facilitate its opening and increased usage outside of performance times. This area also benefits from a significant terrace to the front, and could enable the theatre to significantly increase its income and in turn its overall viability and sustainability.

Externally, the removal of the railings to Catherine Street will remove an unnecessary barrier which will make the building appear more welcoming.

In conclusion, the proposed works will enhance the character and appearance of the theatre, improve the experience of visitors and boost the theatre's viability. We therefore **recommend the granting of listed building consent.**

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish to discuss these comments further.

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Tom Clarke MRTPI  
National Planning Adviser