

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/2004

24 November 2021

South Planning Team
Pending Applications
Development Planning
City of Westminster
PO Box 732
Redhill
RH1 9FL

By e-mail: southplanningteam@westminster.gov.uk

Applications: 21/07341/LBC

Site: Playhouse Theatre Northumberland Avenue London WC2N 5DE

Proposal: Paint two existing red doors in gloss black to match with event signage.

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:

This application for listed building consent has come to the attention of the Trust. It has been submitted alongside two further applications, one of which we have been formally notified of. We also provided detailed comments on the recent programme of wider alterations. This proposal seeks the re-painting of two doors to match the décor and branding associated with a current run of shows.

The two doors are to the Craven Street elevation and are currently painted red. It is proposed that these are re-painted in black. The other external doors to the theatre are already of different colour, recently brown but themselves re-painted black under the existing listed building consent. This proposal would make the two remaining doors consistent in shading with the rest.

We have no objection to this proposal as it constitutes a reversible change and we do not consider that it undermines the theatre's special character or setting. Therefore we would support the granting of listed building consent.

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL
T 020 7836 8591 E info@theatrestrust.org.uk W theatrestrust.org.uk

Interim Chair Paddy Dillon Director Jon Morgan

Trustees Richard Baldwin, Paul Cartwright, Annie Hampson, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Jane Spiers, Truda Spruyt, Katie Town

The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

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

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We would note however that the accompanying Heritage Statement provides limited appraisal of the impact of this proposal, as is the case for the accompanying applications. We are satisfied that this proposal is otherwise acceptable, but we urge the applicant to ensure future applications are sufficiently described and justified, guided by a heritage expert, to allow future understanding as set out in paragraph 194 of the NPPF (2021) and paragraph 9 of planning practice guidance on the Historic environment (2019).

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T Clarke".

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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