Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Ref.: TC

23 December 2021

Jacques Du Plessis Development Management The Economy Department Hammersmith Town Hall Extension King Street London W6 9JU

By e-mail: planning@lbhf.gov.uk

Application: 2021/03751/FUL

Site: Land Bounded By 58 Wood Lane And Westway London W12 7RZ

Proposal: Erection of five temporary structures measuring 11.5m to 26.1m in height to provide; two theatre event spaces; restaurant / exhibition / food hall space; wellbeing and collaborate space; and ancillary front of house space for a temporary period of 10 years, together with temporary access via a proposed link bridge to the south, landscaping and associated works.

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 has come to the attention of the Trust because it is seeking planning permission for a new theatre and events venue for a ten year period utilising temporary structures. The site is pending redevelopment with an outline application granted permission as part of a large, multiphase Masterplan.

This proposal is similar in nature to a previous temporary theatre which was in place in White City from 2019 until the pandemic. It will have the same operator, who has become established in creating meanwhile uses for theatre and the arts on similar sites. These include the Kings Cross Theatre between 2014 and 2016, Wembley Park Theatre which started in 2017 and is still in place, an outdoor cinema at Meridian Water in 2020 and film studios with offices and workshops also at Meridian Water. They have attracted high-profile productions.

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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This proposal will bring a number of benefits. It will activate an otherwise vacant site, which will enhance the area bringing in visitors and acting as a catalyst for development within the Masterplan area. Just like the earlier White City scheme before it, this will contribute to the borough's cultural offer and broaden access to the arts for local people.

Therefore we are supportive of the granting of planning permission on a time-limited basis.

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

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Tom Clarke MRTPI National Planning Adviser

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