

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/3149

11 April 2022

Mr Gareth Ball
Lambeth Planning
PO Box 734
Winchester
SO23 5DG

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

Application: 22/01050/FUL & 22/01123/LB

Site: Royal National Theatre South Bank London SE1 9PX

Proposal: Temporary installation for a period from 11th April to 23rd October 2022 for the erection (including installation and de-installation) of a temporary stage, temporary sound lighting/sound boxes, temporary festoon lighting, 8 catering units, an ice-cream kiosk and 2 bar areas at the forecourts fronting the Royal National Theatre and Queens Walk. In parallel with this, listed building consent (22/01123/LB) is sought for: Temporary attachment of festoon lighting on the north elevation of the Royal National Theatre from 11th April to 23rd October 2022, in association with the Royal National Theatre Spring / Summer proposals; &

Temporary attachment of festoon lighting on the north elevation of the Royal National Theatre from 11th April to 23rd October 2022, in association with the Royal National Theatre Spring / Summer proposals

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:

These applications for planning permission and listed building consent have come to the attention of the Trust because they are seeking installation of a performance area including stage, sound and lighting along with associated bars and kiosks for a temporary period between April and October 2022. This is to facilitate the National Theatre's Spring and Summer programme which has successfully operated in previous years.

The National Theatre is a Grade II* listed heritage asset and a major venue within London's

Theatres Trust

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Chair Dave Moutrey **Director** Jon Morgan

Trustees Paul Cartwright, James Dacre, Suba Das, Stephanie Hall, Annie Hampson, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Lucy Osborne, 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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renowned cultural offer, producing significant works which tour both nationally and internationally. It is significant as a major post-war public building which represented new ideas in theatre design by one of the period's most esteemed architects. It features a range of performance spaces along with exhibition space, rehearsal studios, workshops and extensive public areas.

These installations will be in place between April and October. Throughout the whole period a number of food kiosks and bars will be sited in Theatre Square, the north-east forecourt and along Queen's Walk. These correspond with similar proposals around the South Bank and bring in large numbers of visitors which contributes to the vibrancy of this area. Between July and August there will be erection of a stage and associated structures for an outdoor performance area which will be programmed for a period of five weeks. This will further strengthen the cultural offer and help broaden access to the arts.

The nature of these installations does not harm the fabric or integrity of the National as a heritage asset and any impact on its setting is temporary. Nonetheless they generate public benefits through activation of the South Bank area and encouraging engagement with the arts and the National Theatre specifically.

Therefore we recommend the granting of planning permission and listed building consent.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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