

# Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/1746

29 November 2022

Allison Borden  
Pending Applications  
Development Planning  
City of Westminster  
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By e-mail: [southplanningteam@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:southplanningteam@westminster.gov.uk)

**Application:** 22/07348/LBC

**Site:** Savoy Theatre Savoy Court London WC2R 0ET

**Proposal:** Refurbishment of the Dress Circle Bar.

## Remit:

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 Theatres Trust on this application for listed building consent at the Savoy Theatre which is a Grade II\* listed heritage asset. This proposal seeks to carry out refurbishment and alteration to its Dress Circle bar including relocation of its corner servery. We have been consulted on this scheme by the applicant at pre-application stage, and submitted written comments to them in support.

This area dates from the theatre's 1993 restoration following a large fire. The bar is in a prominent position, but the shape and layout of its counter makes it inefficient both operationally and in terms of its capacity to serve audience members. As a result it compromises the experience of audiences. Therefore it is proposed that a replacement counter is installed to a new position along the rear wall with much of the existing position converted to a storage area facilitated through new lightweight stud partitions. The new counter will be longer with capacity for additional display and stock. The bar area as a whole will be refurbished.

The decorative scheme will bring consistency with the recently refurbished Stalls bar. It will be of more contemporary appearance in a Moderne style with retained Art Deco features. It will

## Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL  
T 020 7836 8591 E [info@theatrestrust.org.uk](mailto:info@theatrestrust.org.uk) W [theatrestrust.org.uk](http://theatrestrust.org.uk)

**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

## Protecting theatres for **everyone**



provide an enhanced environment coupled with better service which meets the needs and demands of modern audiences. We consider this to be sensitive to the theatre's significance whilst also delivering the public benefit of an improved experience for audiences.

Therefore we are supportive of 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.

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

Tom Clarke MRTPI  
National Planning Adviser

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