

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/426

12 January 2023

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

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

Application: 22/08285/LBC

Site: Fortune Theatre Russell Street London WC2B 5HH

Proposal: Internal alterations to refurbish the Stalls Bar in the Fortune Theatre.

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 Fortune Theatre which is a Grade II listed heritage asset. This proposal seeks to carry out re-fitting and alterations within the theatre's Stalls Bar. We were consulted on this scheme by the applicant at pre-application stage, submitting written comments to them in support.

The rationale for these works is to make the bar function more efficiently both operationally and for audiences. This part of the building has been previously altered and refurbished; the current format dates from the 1960s when a set of toilets were removed. There was further refurbishment in the 1980s and again in 2011 which together saw new carpets, bar counter and shelving installed although the marble wall lining, corniced downstand ceiling and doors are original as is the general plan form.

It is the newer elements including the flooring which are to be replaced; the historic and significant features will be retained. Servicing to the bar will be rationalised. This will meet the project objective by providing a more efficient working space and general refurbishment including new furniture and replacement of non-original lighting will improve the overall attractiveness of

Theatres Trust

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



this bar for audiences.

As these works maintain historic and significant features within the bar whilst enhancing the audience experience, we are supportive of the granting of listed building consent.

This bar does not function efficiently, being constrained by its small size and layout. It wa
Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish to discuss these
comments further.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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