

Protecting theatres  
for **everyone**



Ref.: TC

04 May 2023

Planning, Transportation and Highways Development Services  
Britannia House,  
Hall Ings,  
Bradford,  
BD1 1HX

By e-mail: [planning.consultations@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:planning.consultations@bradford.gov.uk)

**Application:** 23/01176/LBC

**Site:** Mind The Gap Theatre Company Unit 2 The Silk Warehouse Patent Street  
Bradford West Yorkshire BD9 4SA

**Proposal:** Installation of 1 x internally illuminated entrance sign and 4 x non-illuminated projecting banner signs for Mind the Gap Studios to be fixed to the Silk Warehouse

#### **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:**

This application for listed building consent has come to the attention of the Trust because it is seeking external alteration at Mind The Gap Studios for the installation of signage.

#### **Theatres Trust**

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

**Telephone** 020 7836 8591 **Email** [info@theatrestrust.org.uk](mailto:info@theatrestrust.org.uk) **Website** [theatrestrust.org.uk](http://theatrestrust.org.uk) **Twitter** @TheatresTrust

**Facebook** @theatres.trust **Instagram** @TheatresTrust

**Chair** Dave Moutrey OBE

**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



Mind the Gap is a theatre company which specialises in performance and live arts for those with disabilities. It creates its own productions, provides educational courses focused on the arts and works with other arts organisations to improve their own inclusivity. It operates Mind the Gap Studios which is the subject of this application, which is a 122 seat theatre along with studio spaces, meeting rooms and a cafe located within the Grade II\* listed former Lister Mills. The Mills was once one of the largest silk factories in the world. Mind the Gap make their facilities open to other arts organisations, demonstrating that it is a valuable cultural asset for Bradford and its surrounding areas. The theatre space has a range of performances throughout the year which adds to the strength and diversity of the city's cultural offer. Paragraph 93 of the NPPF (2021) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities such as this.

These plans would see the addition of four acrylic signage banners along the front (Patent Street) elevation of the building. There would be a further internally illuminated fascia sign above the main entrance. Currently the studios lack visibility and prominence. The addition of signage will address this and help raise awareness of the presence of the studios and the important work that it does. We consider the proposed design to be sensitive to the character and significance of the host building, and it is a reversible intervention.

We note there was a previous consent for very similar signage in 2016 which was not implemented. The condition requiring brackets to be fixed within mortar rather than stonework would remain an appropriate safeguard against harm to the asset.

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 this representation in greater detail.

Tom Clarke MRTPI  
National Planning Adviser

### Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

**Telephone** 020 7836 8591 **Email** [info@theatrestrust.org.uk](mailto:info@theatrestrust.org.uk) **Website** [theatrestrust.org.uk](http://theatrestrust.org.uk) **Twitter** @TheatresTrust

**Facebook** @theatres.trust **Instagram** @TheatresTrust

**Chair** Dave Moutrey OBE

**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