

Protecting theatres
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Ref.: TC/439

05 July 2023

Ms Camilla Bebb
Lambeth Planning
PO Box 734
Winchester
SO23 5DG

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

Application: 23/01597/LB

Site: Brixton Academy 211 Stockwell Road London Lambeth SW9 9SL

Proposal: Replacement of 8 fire doors at basement level below the stage.

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 Theatres Trust because it is seeking alterations at Brixton Academy, specifically the replacement of fire doors within the venue's basement level. It forms part of a suite of current and recent applications for interventions at the venue, which has been closed since December 2022 after its licence was suspended.

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

Telephone 020 7836 8591 **Email** info@theatrestrust.org.uk **Website** theatrestrust.org.uk **Twitter** @TheatresTrust

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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

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Images supplied within the Design & Access Statement suggest at least some of the doors to be replaced may be original. In contrast the proposed replacement doors are of modern finish, six of which are 'off the shelf' with two to be custom made due to their doorways being of non-standard size.

It is stated these doors are being replaced proactively with the replacement doors being of the same fire resistance rating, suggesting there may not be an urgent deficiency necessitating replacement. We suggest the Heritage Statement should be revised to include further detail to assess whether the existing doors have historic significance, and if so to outline why replacement is necessary and why repair is not possible or practical. If replacement is necessary, and the doors are original or of significance, we recommend they should be securely packaged, labelled and retained on site for possible future re-instatement or re-use elsewhere within the building. This can be secured by condition.

We are keen to support interventions which are necessary to enable Brixton Academy to be returned to active use, but where there are heritage implications these must be properly assessed and justified. On that basis in this instance we could only support the granting of listed building consent if there is provision of additional information/clarification as set out.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish to discuss this representation in greater detail.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tom Clarke'.

Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

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