

Protecting theatres
for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/1924

13 December 2023

Barbara Kirkbride
Liverpool City Council
Cunard Building
Water Street
Liverpool
L3 1AH

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

Application: 23L/2980

Site: The Courtyard, 89 Roe Street, Liverpool, L1 1EP

Proposal: To carry out works to the northern façade of the Royal Court Theatre (in connection with the redevelopment of the Courtyard Bar to provide a 4 storey building with basement and external roof terrace, to provide exhibition space and associated cultural and visitor uses) so as to remove sections of the existing facade to create three new openings above ground and one below at basement level to connect the floors of the theatre with the new building

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'.

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

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



Comment:

Thank you for consulting Theatres Trust on this application for listed building consent at the Royal Court Theatre. The overall project seeks to redevelop the theatre's Courtyard Bar and this will link to the existing theatre with new openings created. We have also provided comment on the corresponding planning permission under separate cover which we have supported.

There are two primary heritage implications of this proposal. The first is the impact on the existing theatre and its setting of the proposed development in design terms. On those grounds we are supportive of the design approach, considering that the scheme complements the appearance and significance of the existing theatre.

The second is the creation of new openings from the existing theatre to facilitate movement between the respective parts of the building. Whilst this will result in the loss of some historic fabric we consider this to constitute less than substantial harm. With reference to paragraph 202 of the NPPF (2023) we consider that the public benefits of significantly enhancing the theatre's function, facilities, flexibility and arts and cultural offer sufficiently mitigates the impact of development.

We are therefore 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.

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

Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

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