

Ref.: TC/3170

05 March 2024

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City Development Department
50 North Lindsay Street
Dundee
DD1 1LS

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

Application: 24/00040/FULL & 24/00037/LBC

Site: Dundee Repertory Theatre Tay Square Dundee DD1 1PB

Proposal: Replacement of entrance doors & External alterations

Remit:

The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. We were established through the Theatres Trust Act 1978 'to promote the better protection of theatres' and provide statutory planning advice on theatre buildings and theatre use in Scotland through The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulation 2013, 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

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Chair Dave Moutrey OBE

Director Jon Morgan

Trustees James Dacre, Suba Das, Stephanie Hall, Annie Hampson, Lucy Osborne, 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

Comment:

These applications for planning permission and listed building consent have come to the attention of Theatres Trust because they are seeking to undertake alteration at Dundee Rep, specifically to replace its existing revolving door and screen at its main entrance with a new sliding door alongside general repairs. Existing poster boards will also be replaced with digital screens.

The Rep has Category A listed status reflecting its rare and exceptional post-war theatre design, particularly notable as a repertory theatre, and contribution to civic life, society and culture in Scotland. The Dundee Repertory Company was originally founded in 1939 and operated from the former Forester's Hall until it was destroyed by fire in 1963. After a prolonged move to a redundant church which was intended to be temporary, the current theatre was built on land donated by the University of Dundee. It opened in 1982. Our database entry notes that its original theatre layout and plan form survives and it has an intact internal decorative scheme, detailing and original fittings.

The building has a high recessed glazed entry beneath a white block façade which allows visual access to the foyers and stairs. The fly tower stands above the building. Its auditorium has continental style raked seating arranged in a demi-hexagon leading to an adaptable proscenium arch or open stage designed also for dance. In 2004 a new studio was added to house the Scottish Dance Theatre. The Rep has written and produced a number of notable plays. It is therefore an important cultural venue and heritage asset for Dundee.

The revolving door is not original, having been installed in the late 1990s following refurbishment. This proposal therefore is a closer reinstatement of original form. Metalwork will match existing detailing. The existing acute angled corner is being retained and whilst not original it was designed by the original architect.

The replacement sliding door will enhance accessibility, as revolving doors are problematic for some users. The design of the replacement doors and screen is sensitive to the building's significance.

With regards to the replacement of posterboards, the proposed screens appear to be of similar size and scale as the boards which already exist. Therefore the principle of signage and advertisements at this location is already accepted, aside from these being an integral and recognisable feature of theatres and other live entertainment buildings. Alterations of this nature have been taken forward at a number of other venues.

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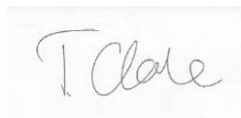
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We are therefore supportive of the granting of planning permission and listed building consent.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish to discuss these comments in further detail.



Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

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