

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/2264

21 November 2022

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By e-mail: dcconsultation@lancaster.gov.uk

Applications: 22/01307/LB

Site: Grand Theatre St Leonards Gate Lancaster Lancashire LA1 1NL

Proposals: Listed building application for the installation of lighting to front and side elevations, installation of signs to side elevations, facade repair to front elevation

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 to install new signage and lighting at the Grand Theatre.

Under these plans the existing projecting theatre sign to the front (north-west) elevation would be removed. Three uplighters would be installed, one on each bay between the set of first floor windows. The lighting within the door recesses will be replaced with LED alternatives. To the north-east and south-west side elevations the existing Grand Theatre high-level lettering will be removed and replaced with new halo-illuminated lettering along with a series of further uplighters within niches and below the existing show signage to the (the latter north-east side only).

The theatre's existing signage is becoming dated and there is merit in its refreshment, from a heritage perspective this constitutes a neutral change. The new lighting will better reveal the architectural significance of the building after dark and help improve the theatre's prominence. We consider this to be a heritage benefit.

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

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We therefore support these proposals, however currently there appears to be no detail provided as to how the uplighters will be fixed and what harm, if any, would be caused to historic fabric. It is also to be assumed replacement lettering will utilise existing fixings and that any holes or missing render from removal of the projecting sign will be made good.

On the assumption these will be managed appropriately, we are supportive of the granting of listed building consent.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or if you would like to discuss these comments further.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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