

# Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/1849

30 March 2023

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

**Application:** 23/0097

**Site:** WINTER GARDENS, CHURCH STREET, BLACKPOOL, FY1 1HW

**Proposal:** Alterations to Empress Ballroom Balcony bar including extension of existing bar to include accessible counter, removal of existing bar header, removal of roller shutters over original windows, reconstruction of missing window frame to be infilled with mirrors, replacement of carpet with a wooden floor, and reconfiguration of back of house area.

## **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:**

Thank you for consulting Theatres Trust on this application for listed building consent at the Winter Gardens, in relation to alterations to the Balcony Bar within the Empress Ballroom. We have also been consulted on two further applications to which we have responded under separate cover.

The Balcony Bar is currently inefficient due to its layout and does not meet current standards of accessibility. It is a later intervention, having been installed in the 1970s, and we agree with the applicant's assertion that it has the feel of a social club servery rather than a bar which contributes to the character and significance of its setting.

These plans will remove the bar's header and extend the counter including lower-level positions to meet accessibility requirements. This will enable quicker and more efficient service which will

## **Theatres Trust**

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL  
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**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

## Protecting theatres for **everyone**



improve the audience experience, and also enhance inclusivity. These plans also provide a heritage benefit because they will reveal decorative windows which are currently concealed.

Therefore we support the granting of listed building consent.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish 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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