

Protecting theatres
for **everyone**



Ref.: TC

16 May 2023

Nathan Keyte
Lambeth Planning
PO Box 734
Winchester
SO23 5DG

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

Application: 23/01342/FUL

Site: Arch 63 Albert Embankment London SE1 7TP

Proposal: Change of use of Arches 63 and 64 to theatre use (Sui Generis).

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 change of use of two adjoining railway arches along Albert Embankment to theatre use (Sui Generis).

This proposal is to facilitate an immersive theatre operator which appears to be Parabolic Theatre for a production called 'Bridge Command', based around a journey in a space ship.

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

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The Planning Statement references the loss of theatre use following the withdrawal of Above the Stag in 2022 from two arches nearby. In the short term these plans will reinstate a theatre use within this area, although there is no reference as to the proposed duration this production will be in place and whether the operator intends this as a permanent home. We are supportive of change of use to facilitate this event, which on its own grounds can be supported by policy. Policy ED6.A of the Lambeth Local Plan (2021) promotes use of arches for leisure and community uses and Policy PN2.D specifically encourages cultural and artistic uses within the Vauxhall area. Policy ED13.A promotes arts and cultural uses in the borough, again particularly within Vauxhall.

This is a very different offer to that of Above the Stag who currently remain without a permanent home. This is reflected by the outline plans of proposed internal layout on the air conditioning services plan. Our support for this change of use does not necessarily mean we would support loss of theatre use from arches 72 and 73 without the requisite evidence ordinarily expected.

As set out above, we can recommend the granting of permission for this change of use.

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

Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

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