

Ref.: TC/3135

5 February 2024

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Environment  
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By e-mail: [planning.enquiries@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:planning.enquiries@southwark.gov.uk)

**Application:** 24/AP/0038

**Site:** The Greenwood Theatre 55 Weston Street London Southwark SE1 3RA

**Proposal:** Construction of an extension to facilitate the enclosure of the lobby to the south east of the 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](mailto:info@theatrestrust.org.uk) **Website** [theatrestrust.org.uk](http://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

**Comment:**

This application has come to the attention of Theatres Trust because it covers works to the Greenwood Theatre, specifically the relocation and enclosure of a fire exit to the building's south-east elevation.

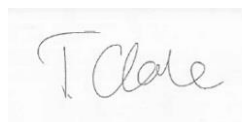
Greenwood Theatre is part of King's College London. It was built in the late 1970s by the Charitable Foundation of Guy's Hospital following a donation by Sir James Mantle Greenwood, who ran a successful business and had strong connections to the hospital. The theatre was named in his honour. It is well-equipped and has a capacity of around 450 seats. It is utilised for university activities and lectures and student productions alongside some external shows. As such it contributes to the strength and diversity of London's theatre and wider arts and cultural offer.

Paragraph 97 of the NPPF seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities such as this.

The applicant has set out compelling need and justification for these works. As a result of the fire escape's recess it gives rise to criminal and anti-social behaviour, which in turn results in additional burden and risk to the theatre's staff. It also compromises the venue's fire safety as there is potential for egress to be obstructed. Therefore it is proposed that this part of the building will be re-designed, with the recess infilled and fire door slightly relocated.

This proposal will provide operational and fire safety enhancements for the theatre and will not impact on the theatre's activities and function. Therefore we are supportive of the granting of planning permission.

Please contact us should you wish to discuss these comments in further detail.



Tom Clarke MRTPI  
National Planning Adviser

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