

Ref.: TC/2308

6 February 2024

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**Application:** 23/03179/LBA

**Site:** Theatre Royal 254 - 290 Hope Street Glasgow

**Proposal:** Internal alterations, with replacement of stage and associated works.

#### **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'.

#### **Comment:**

This application for listed building consent has come to the attention of Theatres Trust because it is seeking to undertake internal alterations at Theatre Royal Glasgow, specifically to replace its timber stage, upgrade the supporting beams to the stage and to remove surrounding asbestos.

#### **Theatres Trust**

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

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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

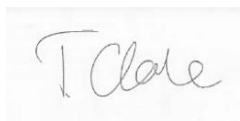
Theatre Royal is a highly significant heritage asset which is Category A listed. It opened in 1867 but following a fire which destroyed the auditorium it was redesigned in a classical French renaissance style by renowned nineteenth century theatre architect C. J. Phipps. It became the founding and flagship venue of the Howard & Wyndham theatre company which was highly successful throughout the period from the late 1800s until 1960. In the partnership's later years it entered into a joint venture with the independent Scottish Television and Theatre Royal became a television studio in 1957. In 1975 it was taken on by Scottish Opera and was reverted back to a full-time theatre, becoming a notable venue for opera and ballet. It is the largest surviving example of Phipps' theatre work.

The focus of this project is on the theatre's stage. Aside from asbestos removal and the current constraints of this being in place, there is a more general need to strengthen the load-bearing capacity of the stage. This is so that the theatre can accommodate the needs of modern shows as sets and equipment have become heavier. A number of older theatres across the UK have undertaken similar projects in recent years for the same reason.

The stage is not original, dating from the 1975 conversion back to theatre use. At that time it was also deepened to facilitate large opera ensembles, with the orchestra pit also being greatly expanded and new flying facilities installed. Therefore in heritage terms the stage is of less significance. Furthermore there is a heritage benefit in the theatre being able to programme a wider range of shows, as this will ensure it remains viable into the future which will conserve this important heritage asset.

We therefore 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 in further detail.



Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

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