

Ref.: TC/1841

03 January 2025

Planning Services  
Leeds City Council  
Merrion House  
110 Merrion Centre  
Leeds  
LS2 8BB

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

**Application:** 24/07183/LI

**Site:** Grand Theatre 46 New Briggate Leeds LS1 6NU

**Proposal:** Listed Building Application for replacement of existing facade lighting and removal of the existing paper tablet frames and replacement with new electronic advertisement tablets to front facade and side elevation including removal of existing fittings and cabling and replacing with new in obtusely sited containment and cable runs and fittings

## **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** Vicky Browning OBE, Anna Collins, James Dacre, Suba Das, Liam Evans-Ford, Stephanie Hall, Annie Hampson, Tracy Ann Oberman, Lucy Osborne, Saratha Rajeswaran, Truda Spruyt, Michèle Taylor MBE, Katie Town

The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund supports the work of The Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697

## Comment:

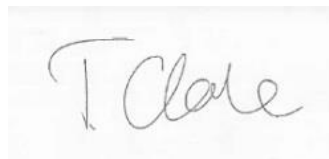
This application for listed building consent has come to the attention of Theatres Trust because it is seeking to replace external lighting and install electronic advertisements in place of existing poster boards at the Grand Theatre and Opera House.

The lighting proposals are a mixture of replacement units with some new installations. However these are small in scale and will be largely concealed. There is a heritage benefit in illuminating the building, allowing it to be better appreciated outside of daylight hours.

The replacement of static posterboards with electronic screens has been a common project at theatres in recent years, as well as other cultural and visitor attractions. It constitutes a modern interpretation of traditional signage, which is a common and recognisable feature of theatre character. Digital screens provide benefits for operators because they can be altered with greater frequency and tailored to particular audiences. They also do not require manual change by staff. We consider the heritage impact to be neutral and support the principle of this change. They should be proportioned to ensure decorative features are not concealed.

We support the granting of listed building consent.

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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