

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC

01 June 2021

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Planning Division
Town Hall Extension
King Street
London
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By e-mail: planning@lbhf.gov.uk

Applications: 2021/01443/FUL

Site: Earls Court 2 Exhibition Centre, Lillie Bridge Rail Depot, West Kensington And Gibbs Green Housing Estates And Adjoining Land

Proposal: Use of the former Earls Court Exhibition Centre 2 site for a period from 1 July to 10 October 2021, for the temporary erection (including installation and de-installation) of two main event structures - a big top tent and theatre, a box office, food and drink units, amusement rides, a beach area, toilets, storage, outdoor seating areas and fencing, in conjunction with Underbelly 'London Wonderground Event 2021' (associated Advertisement Consent Application ref: 2021/01444/ADV).

Remit:

The 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:

This application has come to the attention of the Trust because it is proposing temporary use of land at Earls Court for theatre use.

The applicant is Underbelly who are seeking to install a 'London Wonderground' event at Earls Court for a fourteen week period. This will include two theatres along with associated structures for front and back of house provision. Underbelly is a well-regarded and reputable operator who have been running successful events in London for a number of years, predominantly around the South Bank.

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

T 020 7836 8591 **E** info@theatrestrust.org.uk **W** theatrestrust.org.uk

Chair Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

Trustees Richard Baldwin, Paul Cartwright, Paddy Dillon, Annie Hampson, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, 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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These events contribute to London's cultural offer and attractiveness, which is particularly important as the sector and wider economy seeks to recover from the impacts of Covid-19. There would be great merit in activating the Earls Court site and the local economy would benefit from the uplift in visitors the events would generate.

Therefore we welcome this proposal and support the granting of temporary planning permission.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T Clarke".

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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