

Ref.: TC/9004148

16 May 2024

Emma Turvey
Boston Borough Council
Municipal Buildings
West Street
Boston
PE21 8QR

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

Application: B/24/0171

Site: Blackfriars Art Centre, Spain Lane, Boston PE21 6HP

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for the creation of a new office and practice area within an existing unused area of top studio

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 listed building consent at Blackfriars Arts Centre. It seeks to undertake alterations within its studio area, part of the Spain Court section of the building, to create a separate office and practice area for the theatre's youth and educational provision.

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

Telephone 020 7836 8591 **Email** info@theatrestrust.org.uk **Website** 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


The studio is currently a single space sitting across different levels with steps connecting the two, and two storage spaces to the lower area. This project will entail the insertion of new stud wall partitions which will separate the upper and lower areas. One of the storage areas to the lower level will be converted to an office and to replace this there will be two smaller storage areas created on the upper level.

We are supportive of the principle of this intervention, which would seem to give purpose to an under-used area and support Blackfriars Arts Centre's important youth and educational offer. The Heritage Statement notes that existing balustrade and cabinetry will be removed.

We note the comments within the Council's heritage and conservation advice. We concur that there is an absence of explanation as to any historic significance of the removed features and fabric. This should be provided within a revised Heritage Statement.

On the assumption that removal is demonstrably necessary and that the public benefits of enhancing cultural and social provision mitigate loss or harm (with reference to paragraph 208 of the NPPF), or that the features are shown to have little or no historic significance, we would support the granting of listed building consent.

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



Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

Theatres Trust

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