

Ref.: TC/2359

26 November 2024

Hester Lavington
Development and Regeneration Services
Glasgow City Council
231 George Street
Glasgow
G1 1RX

By e-mail: DC.Consultations@drs.glasgow.gov.uk

Application: 24/02710/LBA

Site: Theatre Royal 286 Hope Street Glasgow G2 3PP

Proposal: Internal alterations to theatre consisting of installation of lighting rig points above main stage

Remit:

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 alteration at Theatre Royal, specifically to install new lighting rig points above its stage.

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 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


Theatre Royal is a highly significant heritage asset which is Category A listed. It opened in 1867 but was redesigned in a classical French renaissance style by renowned nineteenth century theatre architect C. J. Phipps after the original auditorium was destroyed by fire. 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 a joint venture with the independent Scottish Television saw Theatre Royal become a television studio. In 1975 it was taken on by Scottish Opera and 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.

Other alterations have taken place in recent times, including replacement and strengthening of the stage to better accommodate modern sets and shows. This proposal appears to have come forward on a similar basis, to provide additional lighting clamps through new penetrations within the plaster ceiling above the front of the auditorium to strengthen and add capacity to lighting above the stage. This will support the needs of producers and maintain Theatre Royal's role as an important receiving theatre.

There appears to be no reflected ceiling plan which shows the locations of the two new penetrations relative to the location of decorative mouldings which can be seen on Photograph 2 of the inspection report. Assuming the new penetrations avoid those mouldings as was the case with the original penetrations and can be plugged when not in use to minimise visual impact we can support the granting of listed building consent.

We consider that harm in heritage terms is mitigated by the heritage benefit of the theatre being able to programme a wider range of shows, remaining viable into the future to help conserve this important heritage asset.

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

Theatres Trust

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Theatres fit for
the **future**



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