

Ref.: TC/1703

3 December 2024

Elsie Morgan
Waltham Forest Town Hall
Fellowship Square
701 Forest Road
London
E17 4JF

By e-mail: dmconsultations@walthamforest.gov.uk

Application: 242620

Site: Soho Theatre, 186 Hoe Street, Walthamstow, London, E17 4QH

Proposal: Listed Building Consent to provide a new Sales Counter and sound and light lobby within the auditorium, new Blackboards and LED screen within the Foyer and to add decorative panels to the existing Parterre balustrade within the auditorium.

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 **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

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Comment:

Thank you for consulting Theatres Trust on this application for listed building consent at the former Granada, which has been recently renamed as the Soho Theatre Walthamstow as a major capital and restoration project nears completion. This has been a priority case for Theatres Trust and until 2023 was on our national Theatres at Risk register. It is also on Historic England's Heritage at Risk register. We welcome continual progression of this important development.

This proposal seeks to undertake some minor internal works and alterations to approved plans. This will see the installation of a sales counter to the front corner of the auditorium at stalls level (north side) in front a new sound and light lobby also covered by this application. The counter will sell a limited selection of refreshments. Details of the sales counter have been provided, which is sensitive to the wider decorative scheme within the auditorium. It will provide functional and operational benefits for the theatre, easing pressure on the main bars during busy intervals. This is supported, although we would urge consideration as to how noise from the proposed refrigeration unit can be minimised.

Similarly we also support the new sound and light lobby, formed behind the installation of acoustic doors. This is necessary operationally to avoid disturbance of performances from activities within the stage door area. With reference to paragraph 208 of the NPPF (2023) this constitutes a public benefit.

Blackboards and LED screens will be installed within the pilasters opposite the foyer bar to provide information on upcoming shows as well as menus and other such information. These are common installations not just within theatres but other public and cultural buildings. We note from the proposed elevation diagram that power outlets have been pre-installed as part of the build and therefore no additional insertions into sensitive fabric are required.

The final part of this application is the addition of decorative panels to the existing Parterre balustrade within the auditorium. Again these are sensitively designed and provide a public benefit in helping to shield seated audiences.

We therefore support the granting of listed building consent for these works.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish to discuss this representation in greater detail.

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Theatres fit for the **future**



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

Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

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