

How local authorities can support Theatres at Risk

Source: Theatres Trust 2019



To support theatres on the Theatres at Risk register, the Theatres Trust urges local authorities, heritage organisations, theatre operators and theatre campaign groups / friends to work together to protect theatres at risk and find a way to restore them for use by their communities.

We appreciate that local authorities face financial challenges but supporting a local theatre doesn't always have to involve huge capital outlay or an ongoing revenue funding commitment.

Support can be provided through other practical considerations such as:

- Reviewing the economic and social benefits of a theatre when making any decision about its future
- Ensuring the inclusion of culture within local plans to promote and encourage new venues and protect existing buildings.
- Offering full support to community groups campaigning to get buildings back into use – this can be as simple as support through planning or through putting their support behind funding bids
- Intervening to prevent deterioration of listed buildings through repairs notices.
- Providing assistance to groups to investigate the viability of their theatre and develop proposals – for example undertaking viability studies
- Offering theatre campaign and community groups leases with a reasonable length and conditions, to enable them to secure funding from other partners
- Offering affordable rents to operators that want to develop the theatres as future performance spaces / retain them for performance use.
- Offering capital grants and / or loans to support capital works projects.

We would encourage any local authorities to get in touch to find out how these might work in their cases – whether it is supporting a theatre on our Theatres at Risk list or acting now to protect a local theatre for the future.

Theatres Trust
22 Charing Cross Road
London
WC2H 0QL

020 7836 8591

www.theatrestrust.org.uk