

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Design and Access Statement

Imagine Festival 2024 - Mish Mash Trail

December 2023



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

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1 Introduction

This Design and Access Statement is submitted in support of an application for listed building consent for the proposed temporary installation of graphic vinyls throughout the Royal Festival Hall in connection with the Mish Mash Trail at the Southbank Centre's Imagine Children's Festival 2024.

Listed building consent is sought for:

Temporary application of artwork vinyls as part of the Imagine Children's Festival at the Royal Festival Hall.

It is proposed for the Mish Mash Trail at the Imagine Children's Festival at Southbank Centre to take place over a 2-week period (including installation and de-installation). The installation of the Trail will take place on 5 and 6 February 2024 and de-installation will be completed by 16 February 2024.

Opening hours

The Festival will take place within the normal opening hours of the Royal Festival Hall, between 10am and 6pm Monday and Tuesday and 10am and 11pm Wednesday to Sunday.

2 Site context

The application site is the Royal Festival Hall and Level 2 terrace, which is part of the Southbank Centre estate located on the South Bank of the River Thames and bounded by Waterloo Bridge to the north, County Hall to the south, and Belvedere Road to the east. All proposed temporary installations will be contained within the Southbank Centre site and none of the installations will involve permanently altering the fabric of, or requiring permanent physical attachment to any part of the Grade I listed building.

3 Background and proposal

Imagine Children's Festival

The Imagine Children's Festival takes place over 11 days at half term in February 2024, with theatre, comedy, music, literature, poetry, dance and family fun on offer, designed for children aged 0 – 11. It is all about inspiring creativity, celebrating the individuality of every child, championing diversity and sparking imaginations. Imagine is a relaxed festival, meaning that all performances have a relaxed approach to noise and movement in the space, and guests are free to enter and exit throughout and chill-out spaces and noise cancelling headphones are available for adults and children. In addition, there are of events with BSL interpretation, as well as sensory-adapted and Audio Described shows, and non-verbal performances, allowing a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all. Around 40% of the events are free.

The week before half term focuses on early year's fun. Half-term highlights include dance circus fusion, talks, performances, workshops, plus hip-hop, comedy, singing, poetry, dance parties and more. For children aged 7+, there's a great range of events including workshops from the Olivier award-winning choreographer, and for children aged 9+, a writing workshop.

Mish Mash Trail

The Mish Mash Family Trail was created by the Heart n Soul Feel Good Designers, and guides you to explore interactive art installations that are designed to make you feel happy. The Trail is designed for children ages 3+ and located throughout the Royal Festival Hall building.

Proposed installations

A range of art installations are proposed for the Mish Mash Trail. A number of these will either be free standing or require no attachment to the listed building, for example using rope or wire on existing balustrades and beams, however some will require physical attachment requiring listed building consent. The proposed temporary installations requiring listed building consent have been developed with careful consideration of the historic interest of the site and the installations that require physical attachment only consist of graphic vinyl displays to a number of windows and floors. These will all be in place on a temporary basis for the duration of the Trail using appropriate adhesive and will be contained within the existing Southbank Centre site. It is intended for these installations to require no additional services as all are comprised of 2D non-illuminated graphic vinyl displays. Indicative images of the proposed vinyls are below:

Level 2

Riverside Terrace café windows



Riverside Terrace external balustrade



Riverside foyer floor



Green Side Box Office floor



4 Design and access considerations

The proposed works are located within the Southbank Conservation Area and adjacent to the Royal Festival Hall, which is a Grade I listed building. In addition to this, the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Rooms, and Hayward Gallery Complex, and the River Thames' retaining walls, railings, and lamp columns are locally listed and the site is within the approach to the Westminster World Heritage Site. In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), The London Plan 2021, and Lambeth Local Plan, the proposal must ensure that the historic significance of these heritage assets are conserved, and that any harm arising to the assets is balanced against the public benefits the proposal delivers.

Design

The proposed installations are all comprised of PVC-free vinyls with removable adhesive and laminated with PVC-free laminate. The vinyls are made from recycled materials and will be recycled at the end of the Festival. The vinyls will be adhered to the surfaces on a temporary basis with adhesive that will not leave a sticky residue once removed, so the proposals will have no lasting adverse impact on the character or appearance of the Conservation Area or listed building. The vinyls will help to create an interactive and visually interesting Festival for children and help to reinforce the Southbank Centre as a world class arts and cultural destination, therefore bringing about significant public benefits outweighing any perceived temporary harm.

Scale

The window vinyls will be between 0.2sqm and 0.5sqm in size and the floor vinyls will be between 1.5sqm and 2sqm in size, and so appropriate for the spaces within the building and consistent with previous events on the site.

Layout and amount

The layout of the proposed vinyls are intended to be visually interesting features scattered throughout the Mish Mash Trail, maximising its area through the building and creating a good flow between each space. The vinyls will be at varying heights throughout the building, from floor up to ceiling level. A total of 15no. individual vinyls are proposed.

Amenity

The site is located within an area surrounded by a number of restaurants and outdoor activities. The vinyls will be colourful, age appropriate, and visually interesting, helping to create a unique and fun experience for children at the Festival. Notwithstanding their temporary nature and their proposed locations within the building, the vinyls will therefore not give rise to any amenity impacts to neighbours.

Access

The proposed vinyls will not restrict or alter existing access arrangements in the building or around the site.

5 Conclusion

The Imagine Children's Festival will take place at Southbank Centre between 7 and 17 February 2024. The proposed works requiring listed building consent as part of the Mish Mash Trail for the Imagine Children's Festival in February 2024 solely comprise suitably sized graphic vinyls, to be located on level 2 and level 5 of the Royal Festival Hall. The vinyls will be PVC-free and will not leave a residue once removed. The vinyls are all temporary in nature and will be in place between 5 February 2024 and 16 February 2024.