



VISION FOR BAC

Theatre in the 21st Century will bring people together - live moments that change the way we look at our universe and understand ourselves within it. BAC's vision is to place artists at the centre of the process that makes this happen.

BAC is coming of age. After 28 years of short-term tenancies in Battersea's old Town Hall, we have successfully secured a 125 year lease. We are imagining generations of artists, audiences and staff using the building. We have taken on new responsibilities and will create an internationally renowned theatre space: a home for artists, audiences and staff on Lavender Hill, Battersea.

We believe theatre is a place where people come to meet, to celebrate, to experience each other and the world; a physical space where risk and adventure are celebrated; a place that embraces diverse cultural influences and hybrids in order to invent the future. We believe theatre should be a transformative and participatory experience that inspires our individual and collective imagination, that enables complicity and brokers new connections between communities, whether local, national, international or virtual.

We will send our artists and productions out into the world, and bring the world to BAC. Our work is at the vanguard of what is new in theatre. Our work is authentic, retaining humility and integrity. We carefully create and control the context in which we choose to present our work. We will strive for sustainability in our work and across our building.

At BAC, we fuse the best of our maverick spirit, rooted in the radicalism of the Town Hall, with a terrific ability to deliver. We will treasure our roots and our local community in Battersea, Wandsworth and the surrounding areas. And we will be recognised as one of the world's great arts organisations. BAC's vision is to seed a world-class programme in and around Battersea's Town Hall building, founded on the integration of four strands of activity meshing theatre, participation, events and space.

VISION FOR BAC'S BUILDING

Battersea's Town Hall is one of BAC's greatest assets. The building is a provocation to artists by the very fact of not being a theatre. It liberates artists from the constraints of formal theatre spaces and creates its own unique challenges.

We aim to create a 21st Century flexible theatre in a 19th Century building; to find the right balance between flexibility, technology and retaining the building's ghosts. We seek to celebrate the history of this public building with its radical past, to amplify certain architectural features, to maintain the grandeur, intimacy and innate theatricality of many of its 1893 spaces. In parallel we desire for the artists, participants and audiences with whom we work, to have access to an infrastructure that can

realise their most ambitious ideas and dreams, that, in harmony with the architecture of the building, enables the invention of the future of theatre.

We desire spaces that respond to the needs of our activity strands – theatre, participate and events. We envisage spaces that are occupied by each of these strands over a 24 hour period. We will resist the temptation to unnecessarily lock down or define the use of spaces across the building.

We like the idea of impermanence – that early design decisions might be replaced by stronger ideas further into the development of our building. We seek finishes to spaces that are high quality but that can be changed without hesitation. We want to avoid constraints, steer clear of conversations that start with ‘you can’t do that’. We mustn’t be precious about our spaces.

We like journeys and adventure and play. We want the experience of coming to BAC to be exciting, surprising, at times disorientating, inherently theatrical. We want the building to reveal itself gradually, like an exciting story, rewarding those who peek behind the curtain, breaking the barriers between "front of house" and "back stage". The journey of the building is for everyone. It offers transformational opportunities for artists, staff and audience, becoming one another. Like a great BAC night, where preparation leads to performance, leads to conversation, to entertainment, to a night time bar with candles for those who want it all to carry on, to finding a warm nook to sleep, to the sun coming up, to waking to the smell of frying mushrooms and a communal breakfast. The building will be a place where relationships and ideas are born. And nurtured. The perfect place to hang out, to dream and create the future.

We want to create a public space that welcomes people from all walks of life, a space that creates community by encouraging communication. We want to create access solutions that offer interesting and engaging experiences for audiences with disabilities. We want to create a place where you can spend an hour reading the paper, playing draughts, or just hanging out; where you won’t be hassled to buy a coffee or a sandwich (although both and more will be available, affordable and of high quality); where our foyer is like a bustling town square, somewhere to talk, relax, a comfortable place between activities on offer.

We seek sustainable solutions to our Grade II* listed home. We want to decrease our environmental impact and become a model for sustainability for historical buildings. We want to move towards the creation of an environmentally ethical home where artists, staff and audiences can live, work, cook, eat and sleep.