



David Fowler
Planning Department
London Borough of Camden

Mr. Fowler,

Re: Planning Application **2024/1444/P**

I am writing in support of the planning application submitted by You Me Bum Bum Train (YMBBT).

I have worked on every iteration of YMBBT in London as safety consultant and advisor – I am hoping to be involved in the next version, but am writing as an advocate for the arts.

YMBBT is a fantastic show with a huge outreach into local communities – in fact, they build their own community that becomes almost central to their work and takes on a life outside of the show itself. There are a number of groups who stay in contact and communicate both about their time on the shows, but also to mentor each other and to share insights into work they have heard about and new skills opportunities for their peers.

In my travels around the UK working on shows and festivals, I regularly come across team members from shows past who have continued in the events business and are thriving because of the skills they learned and the experience they had at YMBBT. I'm also aware that many others have taken the skills they learned (from decorating and woodwork to working with fabrics and managing groups) back into their families and communities and have built jobs and enhanced the skills of others by sharing what they learned.

In my 38 years in the events industry, there are very few shows and experiences that have this longevity, this reach and it is largely down to the nature of the directors, the team they bring together and the experience they create.

It goes without saying that they have an exemplary safety record, and are universally lauded by landlords and building owners for returning properties often in a better state than when they took over. YMBBT brings together the right blend of seasoned professionals and skilled operators to work alongside the community of workers that help bring the show together. My company is



pledging free training sessions for participants as part of this iteration of the show.

On a personal note, I can't help but smile a big wide grin every time somebody mentions YMBBT. We/They have produced some memorable shows, created memorable experiences and in many ways pushed the boundaries of what a theatre show can be; to do this while simultaneously creating a confident, engaged and emboldened community is an amazing feat.

Peers in my side of the industry are jealous that we get to work on this show – often when there is a “buzz” about a show its mainly hype and fluff to try and sell tickets – with YMBBT that buzz is generated by the people working on it and by the small number of people that get to experience the wild ride that is this show. It sells out instantly, is a must-do (as in they want to be part of it) for many London based celebrities and will bring a great amount of focus both on the show, the participants, the charities supported and the Council that facilitates this version.

To finish I would like to pay tribute to Morgan and Kate who doggedly pursue this vision and put themselves lower down the pecking order than the participants and the need to put the event on to satisfy its fans, its charities and everyone else involved – they don't crave the limelight, but they continue to sparkle with ideas.

I hope that you can permit this application and that Camden can host this fantastic show; I would also urge that you ensure other officers within the wider Council are aware of the work and that any help, assistance, advice and CASH are passed on to the organisers – any contribution will be massively multiplied by the skills and experience of those involved.

Yours sincerely



Brian Cleary
Managing Director
safetygeeks

