

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2024/3971/P	Nathan Friend	25/10/2024 14:52:21	SUPC	<p>I am a stage management student who has recently graduated from Central. I spent three years working in and around the entire building, including the Norman Collins building which is set to be demolished under this application.</p> <p>This new site is funded through a grant from Research England, which is to build a new centre for Performance, Technology and Equity. I agree that a new building is necessary - having spent a significant amount of time in the Norman Collins building, it is in need of replacement, due to it's small size, and basic provision of facilities for the work of Stage Management and Theatre Production undergraduate students. From this perspective, I have no opposition to the new centre.</p> <p>My opposition comes from the fact that there is no plan published, either publicly or internally, for how these displaced students will be able to effectively work once the Norman Collins building is demolished. Currently contained in the Norman Collins ground floor, are three grouped offices (one staff, one production office, and one stage management office), and one multipurpose room (internally known as "Room Y"). The student offices and Room Y are invaluable to the work done by stage management and production students - they provide space for meetings, for work and to develop props and practical elements. The results of this work all go into undergraduate productions, most of which are open for the public and are the main showcase of students' abilities for both those onstage and offstage.</p> <p>Without a dedicated, appropriately equipped space for students to undertake work that is vital to their studies, the quality of work produced will drop, and have a multi-year impact on the view of Central's technical production courses. This is amplified by the introduction of new course structures for theatre production. Ultimately, this destabilisation that this building work causes will not benefit undergraduate students, and there is currently nothing stated in the planning documents about how this centre will serve students outside of research degrees during and after construction.</p> <p>Central, as a whole, is already at capacity when it comes to it's spaces. Having been in the building for a full BA degree, I simply do not know an appropriate location where stage management and theatre production students may be relocated to, without having to make massive compromises to the work that they get done while studying.</p> <p>While I agree with pushing forward academic research through new technologies and facilities, I cannot support this application in full without a clear, actionable and reasonable plan of how Central will look after the students it is displacing as a result of this building work.</p>