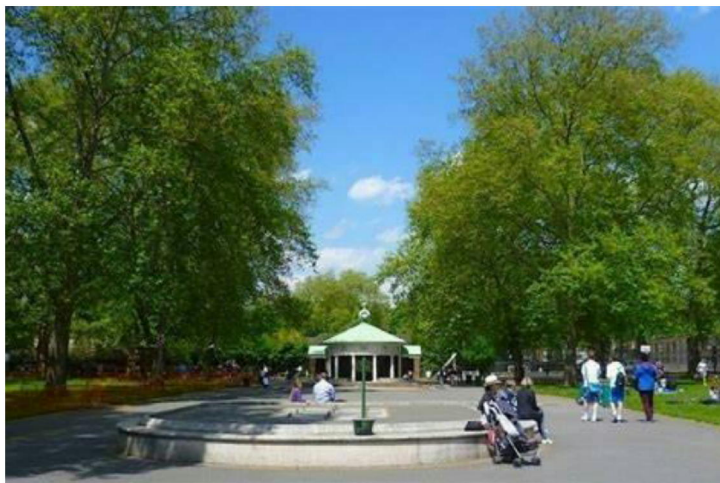


## Perform in the Park Design and Access Statement

### Introduction

This application seeks planning permission for three marquees (temporary demountable structures) to be erected in Coram's Fields from 13th July to 31st August 2023, with a total time on site of 50 days (these dates are inclusive of build and strike time), during which time the applicant will run the *Perform in the Park* Children's Theatre Festival described below.

### Coram's Fields



Coram's Fields is a children's only park and playground and is open all year round for children under 16 years old. The associated charity also provides valuable services for all young people, both from the local community as well as for those visiting the area:

See <https://www.coramsfields.org/>

This proposed location offers the best already landscaped utilisable space as it offers all required services, power, network and surfacing without needing any ground works or remedial works to be undertaken. Coram's Fields has its own substation and therefore no need for generators. No landscaping is required for the purposes of this application.

The perimeter of the site is screened off from the surrounding residential and business properties by dense, mature trees and vegetation.

### Site area

The site area is 1200.00sqm. (Please see the Plan and Elevations drawings attached to the application).

The temporary marquees are demountable and relocatable and will be erected on the West Lawn of Coram's Fields on a hard standing area and occupy a minimal amount of the site.

The marquees will not encroach on any residential or business properties in the local area.

The marquees can be installed quickly, without any requirement for groundworks, with minimal disruption to the other area users, can be easily removed from the site when the theatre residency closes, and with no impact to the current nature or look of the site.



### Event

The proposed marquees will create a pop-up Children's Theatre Festival called *Perform in the Park* - a season of theatre for young children and their families with daytime shows happening over the summer holidays.

Perform Productions is the theatre producing arm of Perform Workshops Ltd, a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to introducing the arts to children, developing the confidence of young people through drama and improving the fitness and mental well-being of 4–12-year-olds.

By holding the event in the Camden area, where the applicant and founder lives, the event is hoped to offer children (many of whom will be local) a theatrical experience, which many may not otherwise have had. In 2022 Perform offered 1000 free tickets to children and their families in receipt of pupil premium to attend their production of *Jungle Rumble*. The applicant will be working with local schools and Coram's Fields to engage with local families through free tickets and workshops. Again, the intention is to make prices affordable for this very reason.

The applicant is a Charity Ambassador for Great Ormond Street Hospital and will be fundraising for GOSH with bucket collections.

Perform have produced other children's productions in the past, most recently at The Fortune Theatre in the west end and fully understand the operational and regulatory requirements necessary.

See: [www.perform.org.uk](http://www.perform.org.uk)

In addition, every year *The Bloomsbury Big Top* is erected on Coram's Fields, a structure consisting of a larger marquee, which serves as a precedent for the structure and event currently proposed.

See: <https://bloomsburybigtop.co.uk/>

#### **Temporary Demountable Structures - Marquees**

The main marquee (Alu Hall) will be an auditorium for 500 persons, measuring 16m x 30 m (and a maximum height of 7 metres at the ridge).

The smaller marquee (Alu Hall) structure will serve as dressing rooms/changing rooms/green room for cast and stage management, measuring 16m x 10 m (and a maximum height of 5.5 metres at the ridge).

The third marquee (Mercury) will serve as a lobby/buggy park for the main marquee and have a box office situated inside, measuring 8m x 8 m (and an apex height of 2.5 metres).

The total gross internal area of the structures combined is 704sqm.

#### **The Alu Hall**



The Alu Hall is supplied with rigid PVC sidewall panels. The roof of the structure will be supplied in opaque (non-permeable to light) high grade PVC. The Neptunus rain gutter tensioning system ensures that the roof canopy stays taut at all times and rainwater is drained at central points. The structure will be installed with a raised and self-weighted cassette floor system that protects the existing hard standing.

Please see proposed elevations for exact scale and dimensions and technical specifications.

### The Mercury



The Mercury is a square pavilion with a clear span aluminium framework and peaked roof. The membrane roof is white opaque PVC (non-permeable to light) 80% with rigid PVC sidewall panels or glass panels and with the Neptuneus rain gutter tensioning system to ensure the roof canopy stays taut at all times and the raised Neptuneus cassette floor system.

Please see proposed elevations for exact scale and dimensions and technical specifications.

#### **Structure manufacturers – Neptuneus Ltd**

The temporary demountable structures are manufactured by Neptuneus Ltd and panels are prefabricated at Neptuneus Ltd, Cob Drive, Swan Valley, Northampton, NN4 9BB.

Neptuneus has achieved Quality Management System NEW-EN-ISO 9001: 2008 accreditation. This relates to the development, production, rental, storage, assembly and dismantling of temporary buildings. They are also members of MUTA, MPBA (modular Portable Building Association) and SAPCA (Sports & Play Construction Association) and, as such, they comply with their Codes of Practice. All of their temporary structures are designed and manufactured to BS EN 13782.

#### **In addition to the marquees**

There will be portable toilet cubicles for customers and a café trailer from which to serve drinks and snacks for customers wishing to purchase and drink in the open-air café area. Please see proposed plans for positioning on the site.

#### **Management of noise issues**

Performances will be mainly held during the day (owing to the age of the children attending) and strictly in accordance with Coram's Fields Premises Licence, which is included as part of this application and therefore the noise impact on the area will be minimal.

Noise levels will in any event be monitored regularly, with a decibel meter at Front of House, and speakers will be positioned to direct sound at seating banks, rather than towards the walls of the auditorium.

Construction operations will only be undertaken during the time of operations (contractors and build) listed below.

Camden's Minimum Requirements for Abatement Noise Techniques will be employed during the construction (assembly and disassembly) phases. All vehicles and mechanical plant shall be operated in such a manner as to minimise noise emissions, employing the Best Practicable Means (BPM) as defined in Section 72 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974, which shall be employed at all times to reduce noise (including vibrations) to a minimum, with reference to the general principles contained in British Standard BS5228: 2009 'Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites'. As the structures will be sited on the existing hard standing, it is not expected that any vibration associated with ground works will occur.

Coram's Fields has its own substation and therefore no need for generators.

#### **Hours of operation (events)**

Sunday - Wednesday – 11am-7.40pm

Thursday -Saturday – 10.30am-9pm

#### **Hours of operation (construction – assembly and disassembly)**

Strictly in line with Camden's time of operations for work:

Mondays to Fridays – 8am-8pm

Saturdays – 8am to 1pm

No time Sundays and Bank Holidays

#### **Access and Egress**

The proposed development site is contained wholly within the Coram's Fields grounds (which itself has a premises licence referred to above). Parents and children can access the site via the various main entrances of the park and Perform will ensure compliance with the entrance and safeguarding policies already in place at Coram's Fields – including, for example, a prohibition on adults entering the park without a child. Stage door access is provided from Guildford Street so the back-of-house operations are segregated from the general public and children.

With a maximum of 500 customers attending each show, there is likely to be very negligible impact on road congestion (if any), albeit there is understood to be sufficient parking within the vicinity to accommodate such a footfall, particularly in circumstances where it is anticipated that the vast majority of attendees will use the excellent public transport links set out below. The shows are also spread throughout the day, further alleviating any potential congestion issues. Temporary herras fencing (shown on the site plan) will protect the public from the assembly and disassembly operations.





### Transport Links

Coram's Fields is served by the following transport links:

Bus – 17, 45, 46 at Gray's Inn Road or the 7, 59, 68, 91, 168 & 188 at Russell Square.

Tube – Russell Square, Kings Cross St Pancras, Holborn, Chancery Lane.

Train – Kings Cross St Pancras, Euston

Car – there is no parking on site and metred parking in the area costs around £4/hour

### Project Management

The Project Manager is Oliver Newin who specialises in temporary event overlay and will be the TDS/CDM contractor for the site. See: [REDACTED]

### Benefits

The event should attract roughly 1-2,000 people a day, also providing a significant economic benefit to local businesses. The running times of the shows will be no longer than 60-90

minutes in total, therefore leaving families ample time before and after the show to explore the local area including the local cafes and restaurants, thereby contributing to the revenue of local businesses during the summer holiday season.

As with all Perform projects, the intention is to employ as many young people as possible, particularly those from the local area. This has been a strong part of the Perform recruitment process and Perform has employed many young people and helped to develop them over the last 23 years.

On all tickets there is a 5% restoration levy being charged, which will go to the upkeep of Coram's field and act as a permanent improvement of facilities to local residents.

### **Conclusion**

The temporary structures have been chosen because of the flexible solution they provide. They can quickly be installed without any requirements for groundworks with minimal disruption to the other area users and enabling the theatre residency to open quickly to the general public and provide a Children's Theatre Festival in the heart of London. The structures can be easily removed from the site when the season closes, with no impact to the current nature or look of the site.