

12 December 2024

Marina Theatre Project – Palettes and Colours Workshop

In Attendance:

Lowestoft Town Council: Cllrs Sonia Barker, Wendy Brooks and Andy Pearce. Officers Mark Smith (Facilities and Contracts Manager) and Taylor Williams (Committee Clerk and Planning Assistant)

Marina Theatre Trust: Sam Vallerius

East Suffolk Council: Emma Bellward (Project Manager)

Two representatives from Foster Wilson Size (Architects and Principle Designers)

This meeting was called to discuss the approach to the palettes and colours for the Marina Theatre as part of the refurbishments.

When reviewing the concept, Foster Wilson Size (FWS) reviewed the historic detail and façade of the building. The façade was in the 1910s style the interior was of the 1930s style and FWS felt it would be best that the palettes be kept with the period.

As the current colour scheme was a blue/grey, it would be advisable to consider within a marine palette of blue, green, grey and sandy colours. It was important to avoid a conflicting frontage between the main theatre, the rotunda and the new link.

FWS provided example photos of the suggested colour scheme in the different areas of the theatre.

FWS had considered the relationship between the café and the auditorium and how best to transition between the two. It would not be advisable to have the café in the same colour scheme as the auditorium as it would be a clash between day activities (the café is most popular as a daytime destination) and night activities (the auditorium is predominantly in use at night). FWS agreed they could consider more colour being added to the café but noted that as a daytime destination it would be best to avoid sombre or dark colours.

The Project Manager agreed the architectural identity of the theatre should be considered and that the palette should be timeless. Sam Vallerius suggested she speak to their staff who work in these areas to receive their feedback on potential palettes.

For the auditorium, the seating and upholstery would remain whilst the carpet would be changed. FWS noted the pattern of the carpet would be of the period.

FWS provided example photos of the different colour schemes and patterns suggested for the carpet.

To progress this element of the project, it was agreed to order larger samples, provide more carpet pattern samples and test the samples in different areas of the theatre (such as paint tests in the foyer). A further meeting could be arranged if required and it was suggested a second session be held at the theatre to receive feedback from the staff. It was requested the comments on the café be considered and an update provided. A full mock-up was requested for the exterior of the theatre within the battery green development space.

The main area identified for improvement in the meeting was the café, in particular to bring colour into the area (such as an accent colour on the back wall), so it is better linked with the theatre. The Facilities and Contracts Manager advised that the café, in its current form, was very successful and any changes should be carefully considered as to not detract from its current appeal.