

LEITH JUNCTION

Overview

Leith Junction aims to revitalize the redundant Leith Theatre, providing a vibrant cultural centre for performance and the visual arts within the heart of Leith.

While Leith has developed rapidly and dynamically over recent years, becoming a lively destination for locals and visitors with its many great restaurants and pubs, exposure to theatrical performance has largely required a trip 'into town'. Edinburgh's city centre has so many cultural destinations, be it for theatre, music or art exhibitions. But an existing Theatre lies disused within easy reach, and the local audience is growing all the time, with the development of significant additional areas of housing in and around the waterfront. The strong sense of Leith as a dynamic community within Edinburgh still exists and is being enhanced by newcomers.

The Leith Theatre Trust was formed by local people, to lobby for investment to allow the community access to this facility, originally created as a gift for them. By involving the Cockburn Conservation Trust, a Building Preservation Trust with considerable experience in developing sustainable solutions for redundant historic buildings, the Leith Theatre Trust have formed a partnership capable of delivering a viable future for the Theatre.

The Cockburn Conservation Trust and the Leith Theatre Trust are working together to carry out an Options Appraisal, considering the existing condition of the building and its potential for re-use, together with its future management and cultural programme. The Appraisal began in early in 2009 and is due to be complete by the end of the year. An experienced Design Team have been appointed, led by award-winning Page/Park Architects.

We are inviting you to support us in the development of this stimulating project, which will significantly enhance cultural facilities for Leith, and complement provision within the wider City of Edinburgh.

The Cockburn Conservation Trust is delighted to have this opportunity to work with the Leith Theatre Trust to deliver the vision for Leith Junction.

We strongly support this addition to the cultural and artistic communities of Edinburgh, and to be part of the ambition to achieve a vibrant and sustainable new lease of life for this significant building.

John Campbell QC

Chairman Cockburn Conservation Trust

Leith Theatre was for decades at the heart of the Leith Community and it is tragic that it has been unused for so long. There is now great excitement about the possible refurbishment and reopening of the theatre for a variety of cultural and community uses.

It is important and welcome that the Cockburn Conservation Trust is lending its expertise and experience to the project, recognising the architectural and historic importance of the building. It is clear from the public consultation that there is widespread attachment to the building and support for the project. I myself share that enthusiasm.

Leith Theatre is a very important building which relates to the historic and controversial merger of Leith and Edinburgh. Its restoration will bring to life an important part of our architectural heritage. Most of all it will be a building that benefits the whole community and which is once again at the heart of Leith.

Malcolm Chisholm MSP

North Edinburgh and Leith