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Abandoned Quay Warehouses Could Be Transformed into Pop-Up Venue This Summer

The Boat Shed: Pop-Up

May - August 2017



New developments have just been announced for The Bike Shed Theatre's plans to create a new venue in Exeter's historic Quayside.

For sixteen weeks this summer a new lease of life could be given to the historic Maclaines Warehouses on Exeter's Quay. Most recently occupied by the Maritime Museum, the Grade II listed site has been empty for over eighteen years. Now though, a series of pop up events could turn the abandoned warehouses into a space for creativity, culture and cocktails.

The Bike Shed Theatre's Director, David Lockwood, said: *'This summer represents a vital stage of The Boat Shed's development. We've been working with experts including the Stirling Prize-winning architects Haworth Tompkins to develop plans for this landmark space. Now we want to invite the public in and begin practically testing how we use the building. It will be wonderful to have people in the spaces, breathing live into the old warehouses - allowing us to test what works, what doesn't and helping us shape how The Boat Shed will be when fully developed.'*

Pop-up events in the space are planned to run from May to August and will include theatre, comedy, art exhibitions, a music festival, a cocktail bar, an ice cream parlour and even an indoor mini-golf course.

Exeter City Lead Councillor for Economy, Transport and Energy, Rosie Denham, said: *'It will be wonderful to explore the potential of this unique space in Exeter. It could be hugely beneficial to other businesses in the area and would enable a greater connection between the city centre and the Quay'.*

In order for the pop-up events to take place this summer, The Bike Shed Theatre needs to raise £25,000 via its Crowdfunder campaign. Donations from £5 upwards will be exchanged for rewards ranging from limited edition badges and signed illustrated screen prints to exclusive cocktail-making workshops and naming rights of the bar and golf course.

More information about the project and how to donate can be found on bikeshedtheatre.co.uk/the-boat-shed/

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Notes to Editors:

Images can be found on the [following link](#)

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The Bike Shed Theatre is kindly supported by Arts Council England, Exeter City Council, Clore Duffield Foundation and Esme Fairbairn Foundation.

Registered charity number: 1153308

About The Boat Shed: The Big Picture

The proposal is for the Maclaines Warehouse, a Grade II listed building adjacent to Haven Banks Outdoor Education Centre, to be transformed into a space which could attract new productions from across the globe, offer unrivalled artist development and create a vibrant social destination for food, drink and entertainment.

The Bike Shed Theatre's intention is to closely connect the making and presenting of art, and this underpins the proposal for the new building. In addition to a 250-seat flexible theatre, there are plans for an indoor market enabling local makers to create and sell artisan goods, a smaller performance or exhibition area, office space for the city's creative companies and a studio space for artists in residence to develop and rehearse their work. A bright cafe and bar opening onto the square will serve fresh, locally sourced food, welcoming everyone into a busy creative hive.

The multi award-winning architects Haworth Tompkins - whose most recent project was with The National Theatre - have appraised the potential of the building and their designs work to enhance the warehouses' maritime heritage. Restoring key features of the industrial architecture, the building will celebrate the unique history of the canal basin setting.

About The Bike Shed Theatre

With a 60 seat subterranean auditorium and adjacent vintage cocktail tavern, The Bike Shed Theatre has performances from some of the country's most exciting emerging companies. Championing new work and innovation, the theatre has gained national acclaim for its shows, winning UK Theatre's Most Welcoming Theatre award in 2013 and most recently nominated for a Peter Brooke Award. The bar has built a reputation for the most exquisite cocktails, and also serves local ale, cider and tasty wines.

www.bikeshedtheatre.co.uk