Zoning Resolution

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Zohran K. Mamdani, Mayor

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
Sideya Sherman, Chair

81-745 - Floor area bonus for rehabilitation of existing listed theaters

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LAST AMENDED
8/14/2025

The City Planning Commission by special permit may authorize bonus #floor area# for substantial rehabilitation or restoration of any theater listed as a "listed theater" in Section 81-742 (Listed theaters), in accordance with the provisions of this Section.

(a) Conditions for rehabilitation bonus

As a condition for the issuance of a special permit under the provisions of this Section, the following requirements shall be satisfied:

(1) Location of #development#

The #development# or #enlargement# for which a theater rehabilitation bonus is granted is located on the same #zoning lot# as the "listed theater."

(2) Qualification of substantial rehabilitation

Substantial rehabilitation work qualifying for a #floor area# bonus shall consist of major structural changes for the purpose of improving a theater's design and its commercial viability for legitimate theater #use#, or historic restoration of the interior of a theater designated as an interior landmark.

Substantial rehabilitation may include, without limitations, such work as expanding stage wings, re-raking the orchestra, increasing rehearsal, dressing room or lobby and ancillary spaces, improving accessibility beyond applicable legal requirements, or

historic restoration. It may also include reconversion to legitimate theater #use# of an original legitimate theater currently in other #use#. Substantial rehabilitation does not mean normal theater maintenance, painting or improvements to mechanical systems alone.

(3) Timing and commitment

(i) there shall be a contractual commitment or commitments for the construction work involved in the substantial rehabilitation;

(ii) the requirements of Section 81-743 (Required assurances for continuance of legitimate theater use) shall be satisfied; and

(iii) a rehabilitation bonus shall not be granted for a substantial rehabilitation completed before May 13, 1982.

(b) Amount of rehabilitation bonus

The amount of bonus #floor area# granted for a qualifying theater rehabilitation shall be at the discretion of the Commission after consideration of the following findings:

(1) how and to what extent the proposed rehabilitation will improve the theater's suitability for #use# as a legitimate theater;

(2) how the proposed rehabilitation will contribute toward satisfying the needs of the Theater Subdistrict;

(3) whether the bonus #floor area# will unduly increase the #bulk# of any #development# or #enlargement#, density of population or intensity of #use# on any #block# to the detriment of occupants of #buildings# on the #block# or the surrounding area; and

(4) whether the distribution and location of such #floor area# bonus will adversely affect the surrounding area by restricting light and air or otherwise impair the essential

character or future development of the surrounding area.

Such bonus #floor area# shall not exceed 20 percent of the basic maximum #floor area# permitted on the #zoning lot# containing the #development# or #enlargement# by the regulations of the underlying district, except that in the case of an underlying C6-4 or C6-5 District, the bonus #floor area# shall not exceed 44 percent of the basic maximum #floor area# permitted in such underlying district, and except that in the case of a #zoning lot# located partially in a C6-5.5 District and partially in a C6-7T District, the Commission may allow bonus #floor area# to be utilized anywhere on the #zoning lot#.

For purposes of applying the provisions of Section 11-42 (Lapse of Authorization or Special Permit by the City Planning Commission Pursuant to the 1961 Zoning Resolution) to a special permit granted pursuant to this Section, "substantial construction" shall mean substantial rehabilitation, as described in paragraph (b) of this Section, of the subject theater for which a #floor area# bonus has been granted to a related #development# or #enlargement#.

The Commission may prescribe appropriate conditions and safeguards to minimize adverse effects on the character of the surrounding areas.