

Data Note

Subject Theatres
Project London's Cultural Spaces: 2018-2022
Date 20.12.2023

Theatres

Definition: Buildings with 30 public performances per year.

Overview

The number of theatres in London has decreased by 2% from 273 to 266 spaces due to 17 closed theatres replaced by 10 new institutions. In relation to the performing arts sector generally, theatres experienced a lower rate of closures (6% vs 10%), and lower rate of openings (4% vs 6%).

Theatres remain heavily concentrated in the West End, with a secondary cluster along the South Bank. Some theatres such as Theatre N16 or the Bunker Theatre have closed their doors due to redevelopment. However, recent openings are scattered across the city. New theatres show a focus on community engagement such as the Big House, Bold Elephant and the Pen Theatre.