Reopening of the Talbot Rice Gallery

Introduction

Talbot Rice Gallery is a freely accessible contemporary art gallery, presenting exhibitions to a broad public in a unique estate: a former natural history museum (Georgian Gallery) and a complicated white cube. It has an extraordinary interior but a very unextraordinarf entrance.

Much of the thinking and resource allocation of the gallery is designed to maximise the gallery's impact as a resource – to increase visitor numbers, and share the exhibitions with as wide a population as we can. When the gallery reopens to the public after, or potentially during the pandemic, we will **need to achieve social distancing measures in order to keep everyone safe.** This is what we see as our challenge and it is a very real one. Museums and galleries are likely to reopen well before theatres, cinemas, opera houses and music venues. People will be hungry for live cultural experiences, and we may find ourselves more in demand than ever as a destination.
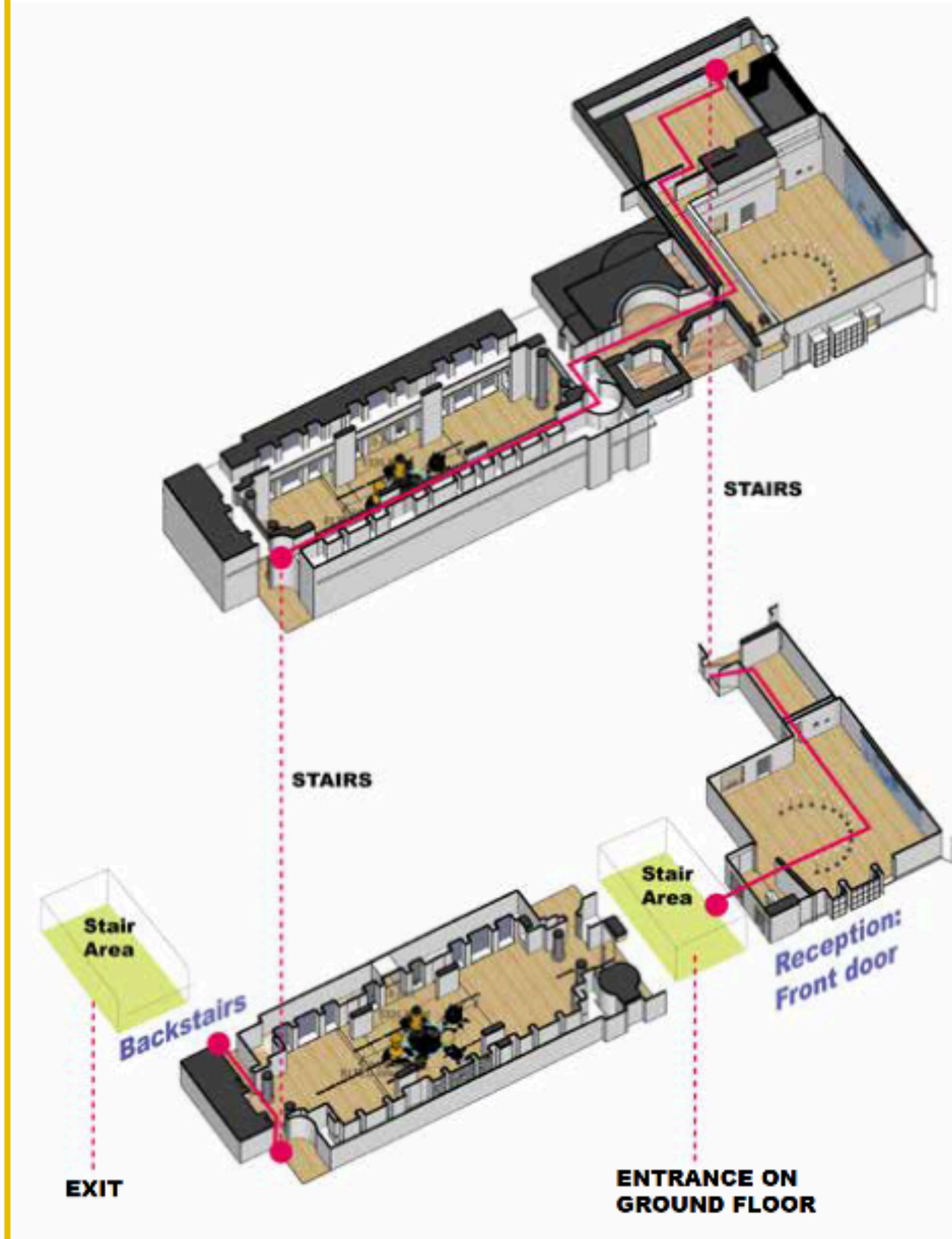
The following proposal represents a safe strategy for the reopening of the gallery, that integrates a mixture of social distancing measures, cleaning, screening and structural alterations, as well as human resources adjustments, to make sure every visitor experience is safe, welcoming, coherent, inspiring and inclusive, and staff experience is safe and informed.

Tessa Giblin, June 2020

Talbot Rice Gallery

Design Concept
Oneway system & Zone distribution

A one-way system will operate from the entrance accessible from both sides (West College Street and South Bridge) and use the glass doors to welcome people in 'bubbles'. Exit will be through the Open Monument stairs into Old College quad.

Graphics & vinyls will indicate the direction of flow around the spaces.

The traffic lights will control the flow of visitors between zones.

Within zones visitors are free to move around at will while maintaining 2m social distancing.

Remain in gallery or space until the light turns green. Then it is safe to proceed.

Talbot Rice Gallery