



Project: Venue Expansion and Refurbishment

Client: Band On The Wall

Project value: £3.5m

Inner City Music Limited, the charity that owns and operates Manchester's multiple award-winning Band on the Wall, has appointed City Build as the main contractor to deliver the expansion of the historic venue which has a total project value of £3.5 million.

Gavin Sharp, CEO, Inner City Music said: *"It means so much to everyone at Band on the Wall to be able to share the good news that our project to expand the venue is another step closer to being realised with the appointment of City Build."*

The project will see the main venue capacity increase from 350 to 500 for headline artists and performances. The Picturehouse Bar will be remodelled and will include an external terrace area. There will also be a smaller performance space with 80 capacity on the ground floor. The learning complex, above the main venue space, will include a rooftop A/V suite, allowing young people and education participants to create new digital work by engaging with international artists.

The new learning spaces will be home to Band on the Wall's improved archive facilities, enabling the organisation to better catalogue its rich library of historical content. Selected archive materials will continue to be exhibited in the Picturehouse Bar.

The Cocozza building is one of only a few remaining structures from the days of the Victorian Smithfield Market. The building façade will be saved and fully restored.

Work is due to start on site at the end of November, with the new venue scheduled to open in Autumn 2021. Martin Berry, Managing Director of City Build, said: "We all know and love the venue and we can't wait to get started to turn the plans on paper into reality."

