

PRESS RELEASE

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Forgotten Women Scientists Celebrated in Monumental Project

A new project led by Glasgow Science Festival and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund will celebrate unsung Scottish female scientists through storytelling events and custom-built statues, as voted for by the public.

Scotland has a rich heritage in science and engineering. Scots like James Watt and Joseph Black are well recognised as pushing us into the modern world. But where are the women? And what are their stories?

The **'Monumental'** project will uncover the women in science, technology, engineering, medicine and mathematics (STEMM) whose contributions have helped make Scotland a powerhouse of science and innovation.

In Glasgow, only three public statues of women exist: Queen Victoria, Isabella Elder and Dolores Ibárruri. In Edinburgh, there are more statues of animals than women.

'Monumental' will invite the public to nominate and vote for four Scottish female scientists to be immortalised in custom-built figures, which will pop up in locations across Glasgow and beyond.

The project will also feature 'living' statues, with events led by inspirational women currently working in STEMM. From storytelling to community gala days and exhibitions, a rich programme of free events will give the public ample opportunity to get involved and explore Scotland's lesser-known history.

'Monumental' will feature at Glasgow Science Festival's 'Science Sunday' this Sunday 18 June at the University of Glasgow's Kelvin Gallery and Hunterian Museum. The free day out for families will include hands-on experiments and shows to entertain all ages. Visitors will be invited to share their own stories of #Monumental women.

You can also share your thoughts online, via the [Glasgow Science Festival website](#).

Dr Deborah McNeill, Glasgow Science Festival Director and Project Lead said:

"The contributions of women to science and society have been overlooked throughout history. Through 'Monumental', we hope to do a little to redress this balance, by uncovering some of the lesser-known gems who helped make Scotland the powerhouse of science and engineering it is today. We are delighted to receive support from the Heritage Lottery Fund in delivering this exciting new project."

Lucy Casot, Head of HLF Scotland, said: *"Monumental is a great project as it shows clearly how heritage can be a catalyst for lots of different activities and bring people together behind a common purpose. HLF is pleased to support Monumental in its plans to involve people of all ages, offering them the chance to contribute to and, thanks to National Lottery players, enjoy an important part of their history."*

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Glasgow Science Festival

- Glasgow Science Festival engages over 60,000 people every year, through the headline festival in June (8-18 June) and a range of innovative public engagement projects throughout the year.
- 'Science Sunday' will take place on Sunday 18 June from 11:00-16:00 in the Kelvin Gallery and Hunterian Museum at the University of Glasgow, with lots of free science-themed events to entertain all ages
- Glasgow Science Festival is sponsored by the Scottish Government and the University of Glasgow. The headquarters are based in the Kelvin Building of the University of Glasgow.
- Glasgow Science Festival celebrates the outstanding contribution Glasgow and its researchers make to the fields of science, engineering, mathematics and medicine.
- For more information, visit the website: <http://www.glasgowsciencefestival.org.uk>



About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) aims to make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities across the UK and help build a resilient heritage economy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. www.hlf.org.uk Follow us on facebook [HLFScotland](https://www.facebook.com/HLFScotland) and twitter [@HLFScotland](https://twitter.com/HLFScotland)

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