A Cultural Catalyst for Glasgow and for Scotland
The Vision for Kelvin Hall: Understanding the World, Inspiring Creativity

Kelvin Hall draws on the expertise and internationally important collections of its partners to transform this much-loved building into an inspirational cultural and sporting complex of international scale and quality.

The Kelvin Hall is a world first, a partnership of national, civic, charity, university and heritage organisations working together to create a unique facility that celebrates Scotland’s contemporary creativity, improves health and wellbeing and enhances our understanding of the world.

The partners are:
- Glasgow City Council
- Glasgow Life
- National Library of Scotland
- The Royal Highland Fusiliers Museum
- The National Galleries of Scotland
- University of Glasgow

A Game-changer for Scotland’s Global Cultural Image

The vast scale of the building means that there is a unique opportunity to create a venue which will not simply add to Scotland’s already rich cultural infrastructure, but be a destination in its own right, serving people across the country as well attracting new and repeat overseas visitors. Being able to draw on all the partners’ collections, including those of: The Hunterian, Scotland’s Enlightenment museum; the national collections of National Library of Scotland and the National Gallery of Scotland; and Glasgow’s civic treasures, will create vast new possibilities. For the first time, there will be a space capable of doing justice to the ambition and achievement of Glasgow’s renowned contemporary artists. It will also be able to host international work which cannot be shown anywhere else in Scotland. There is the potential to create the largest art exhibition space in the UK outside London and indeed in the whole of North West Europe.

The partners working together will generate opportunities for innovation through new combinations across different institutions, collections and networks.

Only six Scottish destinations attract over a million visitors a year – Edinburgh Castle, the National Museums of Scotland, the National Galleries of Scotland, St Giles’ Cathedral, Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museums and the Riverside Museum, Scotland’s Museum of Travel and Transport. Kelvin Hall has the potential to become the seventh, with a uniquely rich, and uniquely largescale cultural offering, making a major contribution to the Scottish economy.
The Kelvin Hall is one of the best-known, best-loved buildings in the West of Scotland. It opened as the city's main exhibition centre in 1927, replacing a temporary wooden structure built for the 1901 Glasgow International Exhibition, which was destroyed by fire in 1925. For the next 50 years it housed major events such as the Glasgow Civic and Empire Exhibition 1931, the Century of Progress Exhibition 1933, the Festival of Britain 1951 and the Scottish Industries Exhibition 1959, as well as many Scottish Motor Shows and Modern Homes Exhibitions. During World War II, 850 people worked in the Kelvin Hall as it became the UK’s principal factory for barrage and convoy balloon production.

A popular annual Christmas Carnival and Circus ran for 60 years between the years of 1924-1984. In the 1960-1970s, the building became a venue for concerts and performances from stars like Elton John, Leonard Cohen and The Who. The Kinks recorded their album ‘Live at the Kelvin Hall’ here in 1967.

In the 1980s the building was converted into an International Sports Arena, hosting European athletics competitions and becoming the home for the Glasgow Rocks Basketball Team. In 1987 it also housed the Museum of Transport which was moved from its original home in the Pollokshields Tram Depot (now the Tramway arts centre). The building became available for redevelopment with the opening of the Riverside Museum in 2011 and the Emirates Arena and Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome in 2013.
Kelvin Hall Phase 1
Understanding the World, Inspiring Creativity

The first phase of the redeveloped Kelvin Hall opened in November 2016. Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Life, the University of Glasgow and the National Library of Scotland worked together to create the following facilities:

Collections Preservation, Access Research and Study

- High quality storage and state of the art facilities are provided for:
  - All of The Hunterian collections which have been brought together in a single connected study centre and store, significantly improving collection care, management and access.
  - 400,000 objects from Glasgow Museums’ collections (mainly local history, archaeology and Charles Rennie Mackintosh).
  - The Moving Image Archive at the National Library of Scotland and access to the Library’s vast digital collections.

These museum collections are accessible through regular public tours and individual appointments. There is a permanent exhibition of the Moving Image Archive’s digitized films with on-site access to millions of copyrighted digital records, transforming access to National Library of Scotland holdings in the West of Scotland.

Higher Education and Professional Development

- Twelve Masters programmes.
- The Academy for Cultural Heritage Skills, providing Continuing Professional Development for the museums and cultural sectors (nationally and internationally) and aiming to create an integrated path of progression for skills, training and volunteering.
- International Research Partnerships.
- International Summer Schools.

Community Engagement

Facilities for lifelong learning and school groups support the partners’ access programme.

Sport and Physical Activity

- A Glasgow Club Gym, including:
  - Largest gym in the city at 1,000 square metres.
  - Eight court multi-purpose sports hall.
  - Four court gymnastics/martial arts hall.
  - Three dedicated group fitness studios offering fitness classes for all ages and abilities.

The first phase of the renewal of the Kelvin Hall was completed in the autumn of 2016, at a cost of £35 million. This phase brings 50% of the building back into use, taking 9,300 square metres of the overall footprint. An additional 6,350 square metres was created on new upper floors which the height of the building makes possible. Funding was provided by Glasgow City Council, Heritage Lottery Fund, Scottish Government, University of Glasgow, National Library of Scotland and Historic Environment Scotland.
Phase I uses approximately 50% of the building’s footprint.

The Kelvin Hall partnership is one of the most exciting innovations in Scotland, with major national and civic institutions coming together to bring new life to one of Glasgow’s best loved venues. Having delivered a magnificent first phase, we share an ambition to work even more closely together in the future to create a world-class cultural facility which will enrich people’s lives, boost the economy and contribute to the education and wellbeing of citizens and visitors.

Professor Anton Muscatelli, Principal of the University of Glasgow

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Dr Bridget McConnell CBE, Chief Executive, Glasgow Life

‘We are committed to working with the partnership at Kelvin Hall to bring world-class research and innovation to the people of Glasgow and the West Coast of Scotland. We are delighted to now offer direct access to the National Library of Scotland’s digital collections and Moving Image Archive at this wonderful new venue. This is only the beginning – together with our partners we will work in collaboration to create an exciting hub for cultural, digital and heritage projects.’

Dr John Scally, National Librarian and Chief Executive, National Library of Scotland

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Dame Seona Reid, Chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund’s Scotland Committee

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Lt Col Sandy Fitzpatrick MBE SCOTS, Chair, The Royal Highland Fusiliers Museum Steering Group

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Sir John Leighton, Director General, National Galleries of Scotland
The Hunterian at Kelvin Hall

The next major phase of the Kelvin Hall will be a modernised and consolidated Hunterian, including the iconic Mackintosh House, bringing this internationally important collection fully into the public sphere for the first time. Supported by catering, retail and a civic space, the refurbished and relocated Hunterian will be a major addition to Scotland’s heritage, educational and tourism offer.

Image clockwise from left:
- The Mackintosh House
- The original Hunterian (1807) in Glasgow’s High Street
- The Hunterian today

The Hunterian

Dr William Hunter (1718-1783) was a famous medical scientist and the leading obstetrician of his day, becoming physician to Queen Charlotte in 1764. A systematic and dedicated collector of scientific specimens, historical artefacts and works of art, he bequeathed his collection to the University of Glasgow with an explicit injunction for its use in the promotion of knowledge and for education. The result was The Hunterian Museum, the oldest public museum in Scotland, opened in the High Street in Glasgow 1807, in the first purpose-built museum and art gallery in the UK. Hunter himself said ‘To acquire knowledge and to communicate it to others has been the pleasure, the business, and the ambition of my life’. He wished the University of Glasgow to continue to use his collections for research, learning and teaching. Hunter’s original collections form the cornerstone of The Hunterian collections today.

The Hunterian’s collections are recognised as being of national importance. In the past decade the University has come to see The Hunterian as a major asset, not only for its core functions of teaching and research, but also for its key strategic objectives of internationalisation and civic engagement. It is the fourth largest university museum in the UK, with 75% of Scottish University museum holdings. At present displays of The Hunterian study collections are spread across different sites in the University, they are relatively inaccessible and have huge untapped potential for the University, the city and for Scotland.
Combining the cultural and sporting facilities in Phase I with The Hunterian, the Royal Highland Fusiliers Museum and a great contemporary art and events space, Phase II will do much more than create a unique combination of institutions under one roof. The partnership will bring together collections, researchers, local and global networks and audiences in a dynamic way which will create a whole which is greater than the sum of the parts. While many of the potential benefits are already clear — in terms of access to internationally important heritage and contemporary art, of health and wellbeing and of the economy — many more are unforeseeable. The dedication of the partners to understanding the world in new ways and to inspiring creativity across all the arts, sciences and social development has the potential to enrich Scottish society in innovative and transformative ways.

Future Phases
Understanding the World, Inspiring Creativity

Glasgow City Council and the Scottish Government are investing £8 million in refurbishing and upgrading the roof in the remaining 50% of Kelvin Hall. This will secure the building while future possibilities are explored. These sketches illustrate some of the amazing possibilities of the vast space. To preserve the awe-inspiring internal space, the ideal would be to develop it as a single flexible interior that will enable large galleries and civic spaces to be created within the existing vaulted structure. The volumes can be organised to form ‘places of anchorage’ and ‘places of possibility’. The places of anchorage would be the building volumes containing the museums and galleries, whilst the places of possibility are the spaces in between, where events and installations can also take place.

Architectural Possibilities

Artist impression FagalPark Architects
In addition to The Hunterian, there are further opportunities to create new exhibition spaces of international scale and quality. The possibility is to create a vast 'outdoor' space indoors – a cross between the Milan Galleria and the Great Court of the British Museum. Equally significant is the opportunity for the partners to bring together world-class researchers, artists and collections with deep public engagement, to create a unique centre at Kelvin Hall for exhibitions and events which lead debate about and exploration of the world we live in.

The specific opportunities include:

Charles Rennie Mackintosh and the Creative City

This display would celebrate one of Scotland’s greatest architects/designers and, in the wider context, the history of innovation in the arts and sciences.

Art Galleries

There is particular opportunity around contemporary art. Glasgow Museums, the National Galleries of Scotland (NGS) and The Hunterian collectively hold the most significant collections of contemporary art in Scotland and have strong links with partners, including Tate, with whom NGS co-owns ARTISTS ROOMS. These will complement existing contemporary art facilities, including those at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, the Gallery of Modern Art, Tramway and the Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA) and programmes, especially the Glasgow International Festival of Visual Art (GIF).

The quality and energy of these institutions, exhibitions and programmes is founded on the success of Scotland and in particular of Glasgow as a centre of world-class creative achievement in the visual arts. The flourishing of the arts in the city has been called ‘the Glasgow miracle’ by Hans Ulrich Obrist, artistic director of the Serpentine Galleries – though the sense of a sudden emergence doesn’t do justice to decades of work in Glasgow School of Art, to the investment by the city in facilities for artists, to the support of Creative Scotland or, above all, to the talent, drive and commitment of artists and artist-run spaces. There is no exhibition space in Scotland of a scale to do full justice to this work or to that of comparable international artists. The Kelvin Hall is a once in a generation opportunity to create this space.

Royal Highland Fusiliers Museum

Re-displayed and relocated to the Kelvin Hall cultural hub, the only dedicated military history museum in the West of Scotland will tell the human stories of soldiers, their families and communities over the past 300 years. Collections are essentially about people and these human stories are the most significant point of entry to understanding the values of military life. Together with the Regiment’s long association with Glasgow and Ayrshire, these human attributes will be the focus for the interpretative themes for the re-display of the collection. They will explore the story of how the people of Glasgow and the west of Scotland faced hardship and danger and examine how duty, family, science and combat thrust ordinary people into extraordinary circumstances.

National Library of Scotland

For the National Library of Scotland, the first phase of Kelvin Hall will transform on-site public access and public relationships with the Moving Image Archive and its vast digital collections, increase usage and attract a wider audience. The Kelvin Hall will enable the National Library to present, for the first time, a public programme of exhibitions and lectures to West of Scotland audiences. There is also an opportunity for the National Library of Scotland to take part in interdisciplinary interpretations of its holdings through combining its collections with those of the museum and art gallery partners and to work with artists, musicians and digital innovators.

Events

The ability to host large-scale international exhibitions and events will add significantly to the income-generating potential of the venue and help ensure its sustainability.

Civic Spaces

The scale of the building enables the creation of what is in effect an indoor piazza, a major civic space. This will enable the creation of retail and catering attractions to support the heritage offer and in itself be a significant venue for events, installations and debates.

Digital

As well as hosting the National Film and National Copyright digital archives, the Kelvin Hall will develop a digital enhancement strategy. Led by the National Library of Scotland this will build on the Phase 1 digital portal the first combined digital service in the cultural collections sector. It has the capacity to both host virtual exhibitions and to make available to all the fantastically rich collections of all the partners involved.
Building on Traditions for 21st Century Audiences
Understanding the World, Inspiring Creativity

The Kelvin Hall builds on the partners’ living traditions and contemporary commitments:

- The belief of the 18th century Enlightenment in liberating the power of knowledge and the free exchange of ideas, expressed in the University of Glasgow’s contribution to the Scottish Enlightenment and in the development of The Hunterian, the National Library of Scotland and the National Galleries of Scotland.

- The Victorian belief in the power of museums, art galleries and libraries to inspire and enrich the lives of educated citizens who are the foundation of democracy.

- The power of culture and sport – and of ideas and conversations – to inspire curiosity and create international links between individuals and communities and to express the soft power of cities and nations.

- Glasgow’s tradition of creativity and innovation in the arts and sciences, so that it is now one of Europe’s leading centres for contemporary visual art and scientific innovation.

- The power of knowledge, culture and sport to contribute to the sustainable development of Glasgow’s and Scotland’s economy.

- The recognition of how the armed forces are an expression of the communities from which they are formed, of the service and sacrifice of military personnel and the need to promote an understanding of their historic and contemporary role in society.

These traditions translate for the 21st century into a visitor/user-centred approach which reflects a commitment to the deepest and most inspiring access, engaging with new audiences and enhancing Scotland’s global footprint.

Artist impression Page/Park Architects:
- How the Mackintosh House might be presented
Education and Research
Understanding the World, Inspiring Creativity

All the partners have extensive experience of audience development and of formal and informal education for schools, adults and families, making a significant contribution to educational attainment in Scotland.

Glasgow also attracts thousands of overseas students who contribute to its cultural and economic life.

One example of the partners’ collaboration was ‘GENERATION: 25 Years of Contemporary Art in Scotland’, part of the Commonwealth Games cultural programme which celebrated the extraordinary richness and variety of contemporary art in Scotland which has achieved such international recognition. Organised by Glasgow Life, the National Galleries and Creative Scotland, ‘GENERATION’ brought works of art by over 100 artists to more than 60 galleries across the nation, and reached 1.3 million people. With a focus on young people, it included an extensive outreach programme for many who had no prior engagement with contemporary art.

Kelvin Hall has significant potential to contribute to general educational attainment, but in particular in the field of art, design and digital learning.

All the partners’ activities will be founded in robust research – on collections, their myriad meanings and global links, on users, their interests and needs and on the impacts of our activities and more widely on understanding the world.

To ensure this rigorous foundation the partners have agreed an overall research strategy. All partners have a research function, but the Kelvin Hall enables all to benefit in particular on the University of Glasgow’s research management expertise, its leading academics and global networks to create research clusters around each of these topics and to raise funds to pursue research. Links have already been established with the Smithsonian Institution and the creation of joint appointments has begun to develop a shared approach to research.

The Research Strategy has identified key themes which include:

- Collections - based research across Science, Art and History. Specific Collections issues include:
  - Cultural Property and Practice
  - Conservation, Textiles and Technical Art History
  - Curating, Digital and Analogue
  - Material Culture Studies: Thinking Through Things
  - Provenance and Security
  - Digital Engagement and Crowdsourced Resourcing
  - Enlightenment, Museums and the Creation of Knowledge
  - Global Art Investment
  - Accessible Museum Experiences
- Charles Rennie Mackintosh
- Digital Innovation, Digital Heritage and Digital Preservation
- Film in Society
- James McNeil Whistler
- Major Events and Tourism
- Participation in Culture and Sport: Traditions, Barriers, Enablers and Impacts
- The Creative City
- The Enlightenment, Expertise and the Democratic Intellect
- Civic Culture and the Learning City
- Conflict and Society
Cultural Quarter

The Riverside Museum

Ten minutes’ walk from the Kelvin Hall, where the Kelvin joins the Clyde, is the Riverside Museum, the second most-visited civic museum in the UK and European Museum of the Year in 2013.

University of Glasgow New Campus

A key part of the University’s strategy for realising its aims of ‘Inspiring People, Changing the World’, is a £1 billion investment over the next decade in a new 12 acre campus on the old Western Infirmary site, which is adjacent to Kelvingrove Park and across the street from the Kelvin Hall. Unlike the 1870s university buildings, which are surrounded by railings, this new campus will be open, a conscious re-engagement with the city. Its accessible urban design and amenities will make this campus a leisure destination in its own right. The Kelvin Hall development is symbolic of the University’s commitment to collaborate with knowledge producers in all sectors, and to create a new approach on a new campus.

The River Kelvin

This tributary of the Clyde ties a number of key institutions together, flowing through Kelvingrove Park, past the University of Glasgow, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, the Kelvin Hall and, at the point it joins the Clyde, the Riverside Museum. William Thompson (1824-1907), one of the 19th century’s leading mathematicians and physicists took the title of Lord Kelvin, in honour of the river which flowed past his laboratory in the University. His work on absolute temperatures is recognised in it being measured in degrees Kelvin.

Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum

The Kelvin Hall is just across the street from Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum, the most-visited civic museum in Britain. Its approach to displaying its encyclopaedic collections, which range from Rembrandt to Scottish wildlife and from Mackintosh to a Spitfire make it one of the most inclusive museums in the world.

The Hunterian

Visitor evaluation consistently indicates that the museum’s current location within the University is a deterrent to many people both in Glasgow and across the metropolitan area seeking to engage with the Hunterian collections. Relocating to the Kelvin Hall will remove these barriers and, adding critical mass to the existing museums, create the greatest museum cluster – in terms of collections and visitor numbers – in the UK outside South Kensington.

National Galleries of Scotland

For the National Galleries, the Kelvin Hall presents a significant opportunity to extend its reach, allowing the gallery an opportunity to share the national collection with new and diverse audiences, as well as to work in partnership with other stakeholders to raise the ambition and potential for international and Scottish contemporary art.

National Library of Scotland

For the National Library of Scotland, the first phase of Kelvin Hall will transform on-site public access and public relationships with the Moving Image Archive and its vast digital collections, increase usage and attract a wider audience. Strategically, it will broaden the National Library’s reach beyond Edinburgh and drive digital innovations in access and interpretation.

Royal Highland Fusiliers Museum

For the RHFM the Kelvin Hall provides the opportunity to benefit from being co-located with other attractions and to develop the synergies and links between its collection and those of the partners and take part in the overall programming of exhibitions, debates and other forms of public engagement.

Kelvingrove Park

This 85 acre public park was laid out by Joseph Paxton, of Crystal Palace fame, in 1852, around the contours of a hill (Park Circus) along the banks of the Kelvin. It is a major recreation site for the city as well as a haven for wildlife. It has been the site of three major exhibitions: the 1888 International Exhibition, the 1901 International Exhibition and the 1911 Scottish Exhibition. The park contains a skate park, bowling and croquet greens, tennis courts and the recently restored bandstand. The Stewart Fountain (1872) commemorates the engineering feat of bringing fresh water from Loch Katrine in 1859, making a huge improvement in the city’s public health. The park also contains statues of Lord Kelvin, writer Thomas Carlyle, Field Marshal Lord Roberts and surgeon Joseph Lister. There are also a number of war memorials – to the Camerons, the Highland Light Infantry, 602 City of Glasgow RAF Squadron and the Normandy Veterans Association. The annual Mela, celebrating the city’s cultural diversity, takes place in the park.

Transport Access

The location of the Kelvin Hall is one of the best served public transport locations in Scotland. Argyle Street is a key thoroughfare which runs through Glasgow from east to west, with numerous bus routes. The Partick Interchange, a ten-minute walk away, is the fourth busiest transport hub in Scotland, linking rail, underground and bus routes. It serves the whole of the West of Scotland and has direct trains from Edinburgh. The Kelvin Hall underground station is a five-minute walk away, connecting the area with the rest of the city and with Queen Street Railway station in the city centre.

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Strategic Context

Understanding the World, Inspiring Creativity

The exceptional diversity and reach of the Kelvin Hall partnership means that there are unparalleled opportunities to contribute to Glasgow’s and Scotland’s cultural, sporting, intellectual, educational and sporting life. The potential impacts on the economy, on people’s health and wellbeing, and on their sense of belonging are immense.

Scottish Government

The Kelvin Hall will address Scottish Government priorities:

- Promote and develop the crucial role of culture and creativity in making the strongest contribution to sustainable economic development by creating an internationally unique facility and visitor attraction.
- Focus on the contribution that culture can make to improving the health, wellbeing, confidence and quality of life for our communities.
- Encourage the understanding, value and enjoyment of the historic environment.
- Raise the profile of Scotland at home and abroad, and ensure that as many people as possible in Scotland and overseas are able to benefit from, be inspired by and enjoy the very best of Scotland’s creative, cultural and historic wealth.
- Provide to school and family learning opportunities which contribute to the realising the aims of the Curriculum for Excellence and to the reduction of the attainment gap in education.

Glasgow City Council

Glasgow is recognised globally as one of the first – and most successful – cities to have developed its cultural infrastructure to support economic and social regeneration. Glasgow is also the gateway to the rest of Scotland for millions of tourists, with excellent rail and road links with the rest of the UK and a successful international airport, which will be linked by rail with the city by 2023. Building on over £1.14 billion investment by the city in culture and sports facilities between 1980 and the present, and the success of its reign as European Capital of Culture in 1990 and of the 2014 Commonwealth Games, Glasgow has identified preserving and enhancing the city’s vibrancy as a strategic aim. The ‘Vibrant City’ provides a framework to boost collaboration and partnership working to capitalise on the city’s world-class assets – its architectural heritage and museums, its visual arts and creative industries, its higher education and performing arts. All of this is animated by Glasgow’s indigenous culture and the spirit and friendliness of its people. Vibrancy plays a key role in the city’s economic as well as its cultural success, and a new tourism strategy sets a target of increasing the number of overnight visitors from two million in 2013 to three million by 2023. The tourism strategy’s vision for the city is:

‘Together with our city’s personality, humour, open and welcoming spirit, our city will be:

- A connected, legible and ‘great time’ city
- A city with soul and heritage, with a keen sense of style and creativity
- A smart and innovative city with education, science and technology part of our culture
- The entry point to world-class culture, sport, music and architecture
- A green and beautiful city, in a green and beautiful country.

A wide consultation has led to an identification of six key strengths of Glasgow’s cultural offer which will be the focus of investment and promotion up to 2023. These are:

- Charles Rennie Mackintosh
- Music, including Glasgow’s status as the UK’s first UNESCO City of Music
- Contemporary Visual Art
- Heritage – architecture and museums
- Events
- Sport

Three of these four strategy pillars are central to Kelvin Hall which will have a critical role in realising not just increased tourist numbers, but in ensuring that targets are met in a way that has authentic local roots. Local engagement and ensuring equal access to cultural and sporting facilities for all are priorities for the city to which Kelvin Hall will contribute.
The Glasgow City Region

Collaboration with neighbouring local authorities is already extensive, exemplified during the 2014 Commonwealth Games and bearing significant fruit in the 2014 City deal which brought £1.13 billion of investment into the region. Future major developments include Paisley’s bid to be UK City of Culture in 2021, and region-wide collaboration for sport and cultural programmes of the 2018 European Championships. The Kelvin Hall has the potential to be a major addition to the Glasgow City region cultural infrastructure, with economic, artistic and social benefits for its 1.7 million residents.

Local Engagement

In the conurbation of 1.7 million, the Kelvin Hall will have significant reach into populations in West Central Scotland. Building on the engagement programme of Phase I and the deep attachment to Kelvingrove and the Riverside Museum, the Kelvin Hall’s history, natural history, fine and contemporary art displays and accompanying programmes will reach socially, culturally and economically diverse audiences across the city region. All the partners have a strong equalities and access commitment which will be reflected in all aspects of the project.

The University of Glasgow

The Kelvin Hall supports the University’s strategy of ‘bringing inspiring people together and creating a world-class environment for learning and research’. The Kelvin Hall also contributes to the University’s ambitions to create an inspiring campus and to its internationalisation strategy. The latter focuses on strengthening international partnerships, expanding its international student community, providing international learning opportunities and developing collaborative degree programmes.

Securing the Best Staff

The second phase of Kelvin Hall will provide the unique facility of an on-street university museum, connected to a collections study centre and a new campus development adjacent to each other. It will provide a unique facility in the UK for collections-based research, teaching and learning. It represents a major recruitment tool for both staff and students.

Attracting Outstanding Students

Glasgow is already a strong centre for collections research, teaching and learning. The Kelvin Hall creates a completely integrated museums and collections facility in the heart of a museums quarter, the first outside of London. This is an enormous benefit to students working with objects and collections from archaeology to zoology. Moreover, the lack of postgraduate museum education in the US and the increasing investment in cultural heritage in the Far East both offer significant potential for growing international student recruitment in these fields.

Widening Access

The University of Glasgow combines world-class research and teaching with a commitment to widening access through a number of initiatives, including the Top-Up, Reach and Early Secondary Programmes. The development of the Kelvin Hall will enable the University’s collections and displays to play a leading role in its widening access as well as its research and teaching programmes.
The Partners

Glasgow City Council

Glasgow City Council is Scotland’s largest local authority and was UK Council of the Year in 2015. It is the owner of the Kelvin Hall (and of Glasgow Museums’ collection) and is responsible for the strategic partnerships which will secure a sustainable, fair and prosperous future for the city.

Glasgow Life

Glasgow Life (GL) is a charity set up by the city to deliver arts, music, libraries, museums, sports and community learning for Glasgow; it is also responsible for the city’s vibrant events, conferences and marketing strategy, which involves building local and national partnerships, promoting cultural and sporting participation and to enhancing Glasgow’s reputation and tourist appeal worldwide.

Glasgow Sport

Glasgow Sport manages the largest civic sports complex in the UK. Its venues range from national facilities like the Emirates Arena and Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome and the Tollcross International Swimming Centre to numerous local sports centres and playing pitches. One in seven of the adult population is a member of the Glasgow Club Gyms and Glasgow Sport also runs numerous programmes for children and for inactive adults who want to lead healthier lives. Glasgow Sport has a strong focus on equalities and works to ensure that its services are accessible to all.

University of Glasgow

Founded in 1451, and now one of the world’s top 100 universities, the University of Glasgow is a major contributor to the future of Glasgow and of Scotland. It houses:

The Hunterian

Founded in 1807, The Hunterian was the first public museum in Scotland, the first purpose-built museum and art gallery in the UK, and is a key legacy of the Scottish Enlightenment. The Hunterian is one of the UK’s leading university museums with collections ranging from art to archaeology, palaeontology to numismatics and it features the world’s largest permanent display of the work of James McNeill Whistler and the largest single holding of the work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Its special exhibitions and acclaimed permanent galleries attract visitors and scholars from around the world.

National Galleries of Scotland

The National Galleries of Scotland holds the national art collection, and is widely considered among the best in the world. Dating from the early Renaissance to the present day, it boasts works by some of the most important artists in history, as well as portraits of great Scots and the world’s most comprehensive collection of Scottish art. NGS is comprised of the Scottish National Gallery, Scottish National Portrait Gallery and the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art. Together, they attract over two million visits annually. In 2008, the international collection of modern and contemporary art was transformed through the acquisition of the ARTIST ROOMS collection. The collection was acquired for the nation by National Galleries of Scotland and Tate through the generosity of Anthony d’Offay, and with support from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the Art Fund and the Scottish and UK Governments.

The Royal Highland Fusiliers Museum

The Royal Highland Fusiliers Museum is the most significant stand-alone military museum in the West of Scotland and reflects the long and illustrious history of the Regiment, antecedent Regiments and its successor Battalion. The Royal Highland Fusiliers (RHF) was formed as the City of Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment in 1939 by the amalgamation of The Royal Scots Fusiliers (formed in 1678), The Highland Light Infantry (1777). It was succeeded in 2006 by The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland. Its collection dates back many hundreds of years and tells the social history of those committed to campaigns, as well as many collective and individual acts of courage down the years.

The National Library of Scotland

The National Library of Scotland is descended from the Advocates’ Library, a copyright library since 1709 and since 2012 with the rights to digital copyright. Today it is Scotland’s largest library, with world-class collections, comprising over 24 million physical items and is one of the major research libraries in Europe. Its digital library resources includes millions of electronic books, journals, databases, maps, films, audio and images. The collections range from rare historical documents to online journals, covering every subject. It specialises in preserving Scotland’s memory, history and culture. As a founding partner in Phase I, it has relocated Scotland’s national Moving Image Archive to the Kelvin Hall, as well as offering electronic legal deposit resources onsite. Its new home also offers an events programme, seminar rooms, viewing rooms and large cinemas/venue. A primary aim will be to support learning and research and develop partnerships in Kelvin Hall and across the West of Scotland. With this move to Glasgow, the National Library is reaching out beyond its historic Edinburgh location in a significant way for the first time.

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