

SFCPR/19/08

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£50 million boost for redevelopment of Glasgow School of Art

The Scottish Funding Council and The Glasgow School of Art have today announced plans for the redevelopment of The Glasgow School of Art campus.

The Funding Council is prepared to commit up to £50 million towards the first phase of the redevelopment. This will see the transformation of the site immediately opposite the iconic Mackintosh building which is currently undergoing an £8.6 million conservation and access project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund .

The phase-one site is currently occupied by three buildings of poor quality which are no longer fit for purpose. They will be replaced by buildings that will provide a modern learning and research environment for future generations of staff and students within the creative disciplines. The new development will be designed to the highest standards with full commitment to environmental performance.

The Council has written to the Director of the GSA asking to see a business case for the first phase before confirming its offer. It has also said it is committed to discussing and agreeing with the School a funding package for future phases.

The Chair of the Scottish Funding Council, John McClelland said: “The Glasgow School of Art provides Scotland with the creative industry entrepreneurs of tomorrow. The redevelopment project will ensure that its students and staff are working in the right environment to ensure success. The first phase will enhance the area opposite the Macintosh building improving the setting for one of Scotland’s finest architectural achievements.”

The Glasgow School of Art is one of Britain's foremost higher education institutions for the study and advancement of art, design and architecture and is home to an international community of approximately 1,700 students and 400

staff. The School's director, Professor Seona Reid welcomed the Funding Council's announcement and said: "The investment from the Scottish Funding Council for phase one of our campus redevelopment is a major vote of confidence in our plans for the future. A world class School needs a world class estate and Funding Council support will ensure that we have one. With it we can feel confident of continuing to produce mature, confident and enterprising graduates and contributing to Scotland's economic and cultural success."

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Notes to editors:

Scottish Funding Council

- the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) distributes more than £1.6 billion of public funds annually to colleges and universities on behalf of the Scottish Government;
- we have allocated £300 million to major capital projects in the universities sector over the past three years;
- the Council provides financial support for learning and teaching, and research and associated activities in Scotland's 19 higher education institutions (HEIs). As well as providing financial support for learning and teaching in Scotland's 43 further education (FE) colleges, the Council provides resources to enable colleges to offer bursaries to students on non-advanced courses; and
- the Council is responsible for working with Scotland's colleges and universities to develop strategies in support of ministerial priorities

and securing coherent, high quality provision of further and higher education and supporting the undertaking of research.

- For further information please visit our web site at www.sfc.ac.uk

Glasgow School of Art

- founded in 1845 as a Government School of Design and is one of the UK's oldest creative education institutions. Today the GSA is one of the UK's pre-eminent institutions for the study and advancement of fine art, design and architecture and is one of the few remaining independent art schools in the UK;
- the GSA has an internationally community of over 1700 students studying fine art, design and architecture and a growing postgraduate population which is projected to grow to 25 per cent of our total student community with the introduction of new Master's programmes and an increase in PhD students;
- the School has extensive international links with leading creative institutions including an innovative partnership with the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing;
- the GSA has the second lowest student drop-out rate in Scotland and one of the lowest in the UK at 1.8 per cent;
- in 2007, Design Week included the GSA in its HOT 50 list of design leaders saying that the GSA is a "leader in the field of design education";
- the Architects Journal has consistently ranked the Mackintosh School of Architecture as the top architecture school in Scotland and third in the UK based on the views of 100 major architectural practices in the UK; and
- a quarter of the Turner Prize shortlisted artists since 2005 have been GSA graduates, including the winner, Simon Starling in 2005 (6)? and GSA graduates have dominated Scotland's representation at the Venice Biennale since it was established in 2003.