

COLLECTIVE

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Press Release
18 March 2016

New Chair for Collective - Anne Bonnar appointed Chair of Collective as it redevelops the City Observatory Calton Hill as an innovative contemporary visual art space

Image: Anne Bonnar, new Chair of Collective and co-founder of Bonnar Keenlyside.



Collective is pleased to announce the appointment of Anne Bonnar as Chair of the Board.

With wide ranging experience in private, public and voluntary sectors Anne has led and collaborated on projects with a wide range of artists and creative enterprises at local, national and international level.

Anne is co-founder of Bonnar Keenlyside, one of the UK's leading cultural management consultancies, is a former Trustee of the National Galleries of Scotland and was a founding director of the National Theatre of Scotland. She succeeds Jan-Bert van den Berg who steps down as Collective's Chair.

On taking up this new role, Anne said:

"I am looking forward very much to working with the exceptional team at Collective

and with cultural and heritage partners in the achievement of the innovative project at Calton Hill and to guiding Collective on the next stage of its journey.”

Leonie Bell, Director, Arts and Engagement, Creative Scotland, said:

“We are delighted at Anne Bonnar’s appointment as Chair of Collective. Anne is ideally placed to guide Collective’s work through this important and exciting period. Collective occupies a significant place within the visual arts infrastructure in Scotland and the redevelopment of the City Observatory Site provides a rich and interesting context for the organisation and its work. We wish Anne well in her new role as Chair and look forward to experiencing the next chapter of Collectives development.”

Anne specialises in developing innovative business models, in and leading organisational change and in developing sustainable arts buildings. She joins Collective at an exciting time when it is about to embark on the redevelopment of the iconic City Observatory site on Calton Hill as the gallery’s new home. Anne has the experience to support Collective as it raises the final funds required and see the organisation through this transitional period.

Launching Collective’s Buy-a-Brick private giving scheme Anne said:

“The redevelopment of the City Observatory site and the creation of new spaces for contemporary art is a fantastic project which brings together art, history, science, astronomy, geology, politics and culture. Collective is very close to raising the final funds for this special and unique place and time is critical to save these historic buildings and breathe new life into the site. We are now seeking donations from individuals who want to help support us to make this exciting vision for the site a reality.”

Notes to Editors

- Anne Bonnar is Director of Bonnar Keenlyside: <http://www.b-k.co.uk>
- Collective is a contemporary visual arts organisation that brings people together around the production and presentation of new exhibitions, commissions and projects. Working in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council, Collective is redeveloping the historic City Observatory site as its permanent new home conserving the site and reinstating the original 19th Century Playfair designs, displaying and interpreting the telescopes and opening the site freely to the public for the first time in its history. Work is due to begin Summer 2016, opening in 2017.
- Funding is being provided by Collective, City of Edinburgh Council, Creative Scotland, Heritage Lottery Fund, Edinburgh World Heritage, Wolfson Foundation, Garfield Weston, Craignish Trust, William Grant Foundation and the Architectural Heritage Fund (Development Funding).
- The 1818 William Henry Playfair City Observatory is in a serious state of

disrepair and on the Buildings at Risk Register. Time is now critical to save the building and secure a sustainable future. Collective has launched a Buy-a-Brick scheme to encourage private donations and corporate sponsorship to raise the final 10%. Donations can be made at various levels, reflecting the different architectural elements and features of the building:

<http://www.collectivegallery.net/observatory/vision>

- Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland. Collective is receiving Creative Scotland Regular Funding as well as support to the Capital Redevelopment project.

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For further information, images and interviews, please contact:

- Collective - Lori Anderson, Capital Project Co-ordinator & Fundraiser at Collective on 0131 556 1264 or 07403979779, lori@collectivegallery.net or Kate Gray, Director.
- Anne Bonnar on 0131 225 7677 or anne@b-k.co.uk
- Creative Scotland - Sophie Bambrough, Media Relations & PR Officer on 0131 523 0015 or sophie.bambrough@creativescotland.com

Collective
City Observatory and City Dome
38 Calton Hill, Edinburgh, EH7 5AA

+44 (0)131 556 1264
mail@collectivegallery.net
www.collectivegallery.net

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