

# CASE STUDY

## Calton Hill

ESH ADDED VALUE 



**Client:**  
City of Edinburgh Council



**Value:**  
£3.4M



**Dates:**  
Oct 2016 – Oct 2018

**In partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council, visual arts body Collective and the City Observatory the Calton Hill redevelopment is set to become a landmark destination in the City of Edinburgh. The renovation of Calton Hill will see a new build restaurant with panoramic views across the city, a modern subterranean gallery for local and national artists to showcase their work, kiosk refurbishment and the demolition of 3 existing domes within the City Observatory.**

The heart of the conservation project is the Observatory complex, which will feature a classical Greek design created by William Henry Playfair in 1818, which will be fully accessible to the public for the first time.

### Added Value Deliverables

Deliverables	Required	Achieved
Workshops	0	3
Site Visits	0	6
Site Safety Talks	0	2
Esh Communities	0	2
Apprentices	0	1
Job Creation	0	2

## Workshops

'Get into STEM' is an exciting programme developed to address the Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) skills gap in the built environment and introduce primary school students to STEM careers.

Each kit is filled with innovative construction themed items and lesson plans. The kit includes child sized PPE, construction themed books, foam bricks, wheel barrow, model buildings and design tools. 'Get into STEM' kits are provided to schools free of charge for a 2-week period and aligns with the Early Years Foundation Studies and Key Stage 1 curriculum.

A one-off pasta and playdough STEM session was held for students from Leith Walk Primary School. Over 30 students from P5 came along to site to take part in STEM morning building structures from pasta sheets, spaghetti and playdough focusing on recreating the historical landmarks at Calton Hill.

## Site Visits

All site visits are organised by Esh Added Value who work closely with our health and safety team to ensure all necessary safety and safeguarding standards are met. We liaise with site teams who provide a specific delivery window for the site visit, this is when best placed to receive visitors and there is a specific focus for the visit.

All site visit opportunities are advertised via our clients, directly with local education establishments, job centres, on our website and via mailshot. Adverts include the visit window, placement location, postcode, duration, maximum number of visitors and focus.

Our site visits are very interactive, firstly visitors complete a health and safety induction and are given an overview of the project and key operations happening on the day. Personal protective equipment (PPE) is checked before visitors leave the site cabin. Once on site all visitors follow a pre-designated walkway and stop to view key operations and points of interest. Our site teams are always happy to answer questions and explain what the visitors are viewing. Visitors can take photographs and ask questions where appropriate.

Students in P5 from Leith Walk Primary School and Abbeyhill Primary School visited site. Approximately 50 pupils attended alongside a representative from Collective who gave the children a tour of the site, whilst educating them about the history of the Observatory.

20 students from St Augustine's & Forresters High School, Edinburgh were also given the opportunity to visit the site at Calton Hill

Pupils from Abbeyhill and Leith Walk Primary Schools were invited to produce banners for the site hoardings. Alongside local artist Tessa Lynch 6 pupils from the schools were selected to produce charcoal panoramic designs to be displayed on site hoardings.

Students from the school visited Calton Hill to complete observational drawings from the Hill, finishing off their work in the classroom as part of the Start programme run by Collective. The drawings on the banners produced were inspired by artist Robert Barkers iconic panoramic of Edinburgh from Calton Hill in 1792.



**The Association of Women in Property (WiP)** were invited to attend a visit to the Calton Hill Site. Over 20 women working in a range of job roles including solicitors, architects, planners and environmental consultants attended the site visit. Members of WiP were also given the opportunity to go to a project presentation at a nearby hotel, highlighting the aims of the restoration work at the landmark site in the Scottish capital.

“ We were delighted to have the opportunity of showing the group around the site, giving them a preview of the exciting development to come. The women enjoyed their sneak peak of this landmark project, one that we are certain will inject new life into a hugely important site in the centre of Edinburgh while fully showcasing its stunning views. WiP were able to see how the project will soon house one of the finest visual arts spaces in the country as part of a wide-ranging attraction that will be open to all, encouraging creative interaction. The group heard about the project's massive emphasis on economic and regeneration objectives, going hand-in-hand with Esh Border's ever-present focus on adding value in the communities where we operate. We very much look forward to welcoming them back to the much-anticipated opening event. ”

Gemma Smith,  
WiP

## Site Safety Talks

To help build strong relationships with the local community and raise awareness of what happens behind the site hoardings we engaged with 100 pupils from Leith Walk Primary School and Abbeyhill Primary School delivering our site safety talk. The presentation covered the key dangers of construction sites, provides opportunities for students to dress up in personal protection equipment (PPE) and concludes with an interactive quiz.

## Esh Communities

Edinburgh based **SAM (Scottish Autistic Media) Radio** received a grant from our in house charitable donations programme Esh Communities.

The one of kind, non-profit radio station attracts listeners on the autistic spectrum from all over the World and is managed by Paul Ross who has Asperger's Syndrome. Developed just over a year ago, Paul had been left frustrated following the lack of opportunities available for people who were autistic.

SAM Radio not only allows people to produce their own radio segment, it also improves confidence and belonging in the community. Funding from Esh Communities was spent on a state of the art CD player which has been a great addition to the station.



**Artist Collective Gallery Ltd** received funding of £1000 from Esh Communities. Funding was used to help involve local children with direct involvement with the historical site at Calton Hill, building confidence, skills and engagement.

**Fresh Start Edinburgh** who provide a starter packs for people at risk of homelessness received a grant of £1000. Starter packs offer people with little or no possessions support when moving into a new home. Funding from Esh Communities was used to creating new starter packs containing cleaning products, crockery, kitchen utensils, bedding and toiletries.

“ We are thrilled to have received this grant from the Esh Community fund which will support the development of Collective's school's learning programme as we redevelop the City Observatory on Calton Hill as the gallery's new home. This funding will allow our local primary schools to work with us long term to learn about one of Edinburgh's most significant historic sites and how it inspires artists and creative learning ”

Lori Anderson, Collective Capital  
Project Coordinator and Fundraiser.

## Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are an important part of our culture many of our Senior Management team began their careers as an apprentice.

In 2013 we launched Esh Academy, our in-house apprenticeship programme developed to recruit apprentices according to commercial need. We made the commitment to enrol 150 apprentices over a 3-year period and in 2016 welcomed our 150th apprentice to the Group.

We have access to the Shared Apprentice scheme and have used 4 Advanced Apprentices from Historic Environment Scotland at the Calton Hill site. The apprentices had previously worked at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh. The apprentices are currently undertaking pointing, lime works and stone masonry works. We have good existing relationships with Historic Environment Scotland and we are delighted to offer the apprentices the opportunity to work on this iconic landmark.

## Job Creation

We are committed to improving the employability prospects in the communities where we work. It is our responsibility as a local employer to develop meaningful relationships where we work, adding value to the area and economy through the creation of employment opportunities.

As well as utilising local subcontractors we also look to provide job opportunities for the local unemployed. All vacancies are advertised on our company website and with local job centres.

During the works completed at Calton Hill 2 local people were employed Jay Williams as a labourer and Craig Douglas as a Project Manager.