

Press release: **Under embargo until 00.01 on Wednesday 11 March 2020**

Visionary eye on the world captured in bold new landmark project to deliver the future of Filmhouse, home to Edinburgh International Film Festival.

Extensive pre-planning Public Consultation phase planned for 11 March to 3 June with full project details available at scheduled events or online at www.filmhousecinema.com/future.



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Edinburgh's Filmhouse has today revealed a bold new vision to create an **internationally significant, fully accessible and environmentally sustainable landmark home for film and screen culture in Edinburgh**. It will provide unrivalled spaces and facilities for everyone to watch film, to make film and to learn about film and filmmaking in all its diversity.

The planned new Filmhouse building has been designed by **award-winning Edinburgh based [Richard Murphy Architects](#)** and will significantly improve and increase the quality and quantity of spaces

available to and needed by Filmhouse and EIFF for their audiences, customers, participants and industry partners. It will **create a hub for Edinburgh's film and broader cultural community** to base themselves in, and be a **focal point for Edinburgh's citizens** to learn about film.

Filmhouse's audiences have made it clear what they value and these have been built into the design: location, atmosphere, diversity of programme, education and learning activities, great locally sourced food and drink in the Café Bar, and a safe and comfortable space for people to gather. Most importantly, these will all be delivered to contemporary standards of access and comfort.

Filmhouse has been at the centre of Edinburgh's cultural landscape for more than 40 years. As well as a year-round programme of inspiring films, creative learning, special events and partnership working, Filmhouse is home to the Edinburgh International Film Festival (EIFF), hosts more than 20 other film festivals, and plays a key role in promoting a vibrant and successful film and moving image industry and culture across Scotland. The new building will secure Filmhouse's future for generations to come.

The new Filmhouse will:

- Provide six new cinema screens allowing Filmhouse and EIFF to programme even more great films, festivals and partnership events.
- Improve the audience experience with a world-class venue that is fully accessible for all, with comfortable seating and state-of-the-art facilities.
- Continue to screen film on all formats, including 4K digital, and 16mm, 35mm and 70mm film.
- Ensure accessibility for all, with a commitment that all public and office spaces are fully accessible for audiences, staff and guests.
- Increase Filmhouse's education and outreach activity, with dedicated education spaces to host year-round activity for learners of all ages.
- House Filmhouse's award-winning Café Bar, which will be designed to retain the intimate and safe atmosphere of the existing space.
- Create a brand-new Festival Centre to provide a venue to support EIFF and other festivals and special events year-round.
- Introduce a new Cultural Industries hub, supporting the Scottish screen sector with much-needed flexible workspace in Edinburgh's city centre.
- Create a restaurant and rooftop event space.
- Keep Filmhouse's iconic character and atmosphere, in a new building that has been thoughtfully designed to represent its independent spirit and ethos.
- Reduce impact on the environment by creating a carbon-neutral building.
- Increase financial sustainability, by creating greater capacity, diversifying sources of income generation, and becoming more self-sufficient over the longer term.

The **oculus design reflects the eye on the world** that Filmhouse, EIFF and the myriad of festivals, events and learning opportunities in the building will provide, whilst also providing a striking addition to Edinburgh's architectural landscape.

Its location in **Festival Square** is designed to be the catalyst that brings to life a currently underused public space and as part of the development would place a responsibility on Filmhouse to manage the curation of activity within the surrounding square.

The architect drawings and visualisations for the new Filmhouse give people a good idea of the thinking on the position and shape of the building, and the spaces it would contain, however **the design is still in development.**

Due to the significance of this project to Filmhouse and to Edinburgh, the project team are consulting as widely as possible on this proposal. The consultation stage will officially run for 12 weeks from 11th March to 3rd June.

Filmhouse is looking to engage with customers, partners, stakeholders including programming partners, creative learning partners and the Scottish film sector, community councils and councillors, and residents of Edinburgh to gauge support for the plans and further develop the designs before submitting a formal Planning Application to the City of Edinburgh Council during the summer.

Information on the proposed development including architect drawings and visualisations, the background to the development and FAQs will be **available on the Filmhouse's website**. There will also be information and images on display at the **Filmhouse** including a scale model. People will be able to give feedback through a simple online survey through the Filmhouse and EIFF websites, through comment cards in the Filmhouse, and formally and informally at events, meetings and discussions with Filmhouse staff.

Three all-day (10am – 7pm) public consultation events will take place in Filmhouse on **Sunday 29 March, Wednesday 1 April and Tuesday 28 April** where members of the Filmhouse team, Richard Murphy Architects and Montagu Evans will be present to answer questions and collect feedback. There will be two **Filmhouse Members' Events** for its more than 5,500 members on **Sunday 29 March and Monday 6 April** with opportunities for this key group of stakeholders to hear more and ask questions. An annual Programme Partners' event in March gives the Filmhouse's festival and cultural partners an opportunity to focus on this consultation and how they can engage with the proposed development. **In addition, Filmhouse will actively engage with a range of audiences,** customers, interest groups and stakeholders, for example presenting information specifically to its Young Programmers and Senior Selections volunteers, and will invite people from organisations or networks representing special interests to attend individual or group meetings to have more focused discussions about the designs.

Full costing of the project will take place later in 2020 to coincide with the formal Planning Application, but the cost is currently estimated to be in the region of £50m.

An **indicative timeline**, contingent on the Planning Application decision and fundraising success, hopes to start work on the building in 2023 with it opening in 2025.

This project is led by CMI's Board and Senior Management Team, with support from property consultancy Montagu Evans.

Ken Hay, CEO of Centre for the Moving Image (inc Filmhouse and Edinburgh International Film Festival) said: "For more than 40 years Filmhouse has been at the centre of Edinburgh's cultural life, and for more than 70 years Edinburgh International Film Festival has been an international beacon for film and film culture.

"This proposed new building will transform what we're able to do for Edinburgh's residents and Scotland's film community, as well as providing Scotland with a physical celebration of the most popular artform. Through doubling the number of screens and seats for regular cinema-goers,

creating dedicated education and learning spaces, and developing an iconic festival centre, all within a fully accessible and carbon neutral building, this really is a 21st century temple for film.

“We are hugely excited about sharing this vision during the consultation period, and are looking forward to engaging with as many people as we can in helping us shape the future for Filmhouse and lovers of film.”

Sandy Begbie CBE, Chair of Centre for the Moving Image (inc Filmhouse and Edinburgh International Film Festival) said: “These are very exciting times for the Filmhouse – the opportunity to create a new home for film in Edinburgh, with a landmark building in the city centre. This will provide a new state of the art home for Filmhouse and Edinburgh International Film Festival, but at its heart this is for the citizens of Edinburgh and Scotland and the entire film industry. The building will retain the purpose, values and culture that has served us so well over many years but in a building that will take us forward for the next 50 years. This will also allow us to continue the valuable work we do in the community and the development of talent for the Scottish film industry. This is what makes us different and the new building will provide the facilities to grow and develop that work.”

ENDS

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Notes to Editors

Filmhouse Cinema

The Centre for the Moving Image (CMI) is Scotland’s leading film organisation and a registered Scottish charity with a vision to transform people’s lives through film. CMI incorporates Edinburgh International Film Festival, Filmhouse, Filmhouse Café Bar and the Belmont Filmhouse in Aberdeen.

Filmhouse is a world-class, three-screen independent cinema in Edinburgh showing a wide range of films from all over the world, from quality crowd-pleasers and family films to esoteric arthouse works, via restored classics, retrospectives and themed seasons and festivals.

Filmhouse receives funding from Screen Scotland, the City of Edinburgh Council and Europa Cinemas.

www.filmhousecinema.com