

EHHF SCOTLAND 2022

Event Programme Speaker List

Neil McInroy – KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Senior Fellow for the Global Advancement of Community Wealth Building at the Democracy Collaborative, and Community Wealth Building Adviser to the Scottish Government



Neil is Senior Fellow for the Global Advancement of Community Wealth Building at the USA based Research and Development lab - The Democracy Collaborative.

He was previously the Chief Executive of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) - the UK national organisation for local economies.

Neil is an economics of place specialist, and over the last 25 years has collaborated with a range of local, regional, state and national governments across Europe, Asia, North America, and Australasia.

At present he is driven by the perfect storm of economic, social, environmental, and democratic challenges. In this, he is focussed on the application of progressive economic and place-based policy that deliver a wellbeing economy. He is presently the Community Wealth Building adviser to the Scottish Government.

Email: [please ask the secretariat for contact details](#)



Neil Gray MSP

**Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development
Minister with special responsibility for refugees from Ukraine**

Neil Gray was appointed Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development in January 2022. Neil was given responsibility for the Scottish Government's approach to supporting Ukrainian refugees arriving and living in Scotland in March 2022.

Neil Gray was born and brought up in Orkney and was educated at Kirkwall Grammar School. He graduated from the University of Stirling in 2008 with a first-class Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in politics and journalism.

He was elected to represent Airdrie and Shotts Constituency at the 2021 Scottish Parliament election.

He had previously won the Airdrie and Shotts Westminster seat in 2015 and held it on two subsequent occasions before resigning to stand for the same area in the 2021 Scottish Parliament election. Prior to becoming an MP, Mr Gray worked for former Scottish Government Health Secretary Alex Neil MSP as his Airdrie and Shotts constituency office manager.

Email: [please ask the secretariat for contact details](#)

Phil Prentice

Chief Officer of Scotland's Towns Partnership

Phil Prentice is Chief Officer of Scotland's Towns Partnership, National Programme Director for Scotland's Improvement Districts, Programme Lead for Scotland Loves Local and Director of the UK High Street Taskforce. He is also a Board member of Shelter's Empty Homes Partnership.



With 25 years economic development experience his role is to help drive collaboration to sustainably revitalise, repurpose and regenerate our town and city centres.

Email: [please ask the secretariat for contact details](#)

Ben Twist



Director of Creative Carbon Scotland

Ben has been director of Creative Carbon Scotland since 2011, combining over 25 years' experience of producing events and running permanent and temporary venues in the cultural sector with an MSc in Carbon Management and a doctorate in applying complexity theory to social systems in order to bring about more sustainable social practices.

He has developed CCS into a leader in both technical support for cultural organisations in carbon management and climate change adaptation, and developing culture's influencing role in addressing climate change. He has accordingly been asked to speak about this work to groups from Salzburg Global in Austria via the ArtCOP Professional workshop in Paris to the Glasgow Life Green Team Awards and the Sustainable Scotland Network annual conference.

As a theatre director and producer, he was the associate director at the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh and artistic director at Manchester's Contact Theatre. He 'revised' Contact to prepare it for the 21st century and he led the restructuring of North Edinburgh Arts to bring it out of a financial crisis: both are now thriving organisations. As Chair of the Scottish Arts Council Lottery Committee, he facilitated and supported organisational change with many cultural organisations and led the distribution of over £150m of National Lottery funds, mostly to capital projects. He has directed theatre and music theatre as a freelance across the UK, Europe, North America and New Zealand. He was Chair of Scotland's leading chamber classical music group Hebrides Ensemble and Vice-Chair of the Theatres Trust and the Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership.

Email: [please ask the secretariat for contact details](#)

Professor Irene McAra-McWilliam OBE

Deputy Director Research & Innovation, The Glasgow School of Art

Professor Irene McAra-McWilliam has international experience of creative leadership having worked as Director of Design Research for multinational Philips Electronics. She is currently Deputy Director Research & Innovation at The Glasgow School of Art and was responsible for establishing GSA's Highlands and Islands Campus in Moray and the GSA's new Innovation School.



Irene was awarded an OBE in recognition of her work in Higher Education, Innovation and Design.

Email: [please ask the secretariat for contact details](#)



Dr. Gina Wall

Programme Director, GSA Highlands & Islands, The Glasgow School of Art

Gina Wall is the Programme Director for the GSA Highlands & Islands Campus, based at the Altyre Estate near Forres. Gina's research interests concern our practices with landscape; how landscapes are shaped and produced and the ways in which cultural, material remains continue to haunt the landscape in the present (Wall and Hale, 2020).

Through work undertaken in collaboration with other practitioners such as archaeologists and culinary artists, Gina's research interests have become increasingly focused on speculations about the future. Working with and through other disciplines, she aims to engage in research led creative practice which helps to develop a transdisciplinary understanding of landscape, place and future heritage.

Email: [please ask the secretariat for contact details](#)

Dr. Daisy Cunynghame

Head of Heritage, Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

Daisy Cunynghame completed an MA in Modern History at the University of St Andrews and a Higher Diploma in Archival Studies at University College Dublin. She is the Head of Heritage at the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.



She was awarded her PhD by the University of Edinburgh in 2020. The focus of this work was 'The Roles of the Edinburgh, Kelso, and Newcastle Dispensaries in Charitable Relief, 1776-1810'. Her research investigates public health initiatives in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries in Scotland and the north of England, with a particular focus on the patient experience within the dispensary system.

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Email: chiefexecutive@hes.scot



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