

4 June 2026

MACKINTOSH ILLUMINATED PROJECT RECEIVES LARGE ANONYMOUS DONATION AS FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN BEGINS

The National Trust for Scotland has received an anonymous £625k donation for its *Mackintosh Illuminated* project, marking a major milestone in the future of one of Scotland's most ambitious cultural heritage projects.

The significant contribution arrives as the conservation charity begins vital fundraising for *Mackintosh Illuminated* ahead of Charles Rennie Mackintosh's birthday on 7 June, a positive step towards the fundraising target of £14million for the £20million project.

Mackintosh Illuminated is a major conservation, engagement and fundraising project centred around two of Glasgow's publicly accessible Mackintosh sites – The Hill House in Helensburgh and The Mackintosh Tearooms on Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow. The project also seeks to deepen public understanding of his wife, Margaret Macdonald Mackintosh, and their immense artistic contribution, creative partnership and influence that helped shape the Glasgow style.

The donation represents one of the largest private gifts ever received by the National Trust for Scotland and the largest received by the project to date, arriving at a pivotal moment in the *Mackintosh Illuminated* journey, as development work continues across conservation, interpretation, audience engagement and long-term sustainability planning.

The National Trust for Scotland received initial support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund in late 2024, awarding £1.1million in development funding towards the wider £20million goal. The Trust has now entered a crucial fundraising phase to help secure the future of the project ahead of the landmark year of 2028, which marks 100 years since Mackintosh's death.

National Trust for Scotland Chief Executive Phil Long OBE, said: "This gift is so appreciated by all of us at the National Trust for Scotland, and indeed, everyone who has an affection for Mackintosh. Building on the support of The National Lottery Heritage Fund, we have ambitious plans to shine a light on the work of Mackintosh and Macdonald, to continue our pioneering conservation work at the stunning Hill House and to bring all of this to people in Scotland and beyond. As an independent charity, donations are vital to making this work possible and we hope that we can inspire others to support our Mackintosh Illuminated appeal."

The announcement comes during a period of growing international interest in Mackintosh's legacy, with renewed focus on the conservation of the Hill House following the ongoing pioneering work to remove damaging moisture from the building beneath its protective original roughcast – a miracle material of the time.

At The Mackintosh Tearooms on Sauchiehall Street, housed within Catherine Cranston's original building where she commissioned Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Margaret Macdonald to create and design their celebrated interiors, work is also underway to strengthen interpretation, visitor engagement and future programming. These developments will help position the Tearooms as a key cultural destination within the ongoing regeneration of Sauchiehall Street and Glasgow city centre.

The Trust hopes the announcement will encourage further philanthropic support, partnerships and public engagement as the project progresses towards its next major milestones.

Ali MacLeod, Head of Fundraising at the National Trust for Scotland, said: "We are deeply grateful for this extraordinary leadership gift, which shines a powerful light on the lasting importance of Mackintosh and Macdonald's creative legacy. It is through the generosity of donors like this that we can safeguard these remarkable places and stories, while inspiring the designers, artists and makers of today and tomorrow. Every gift, no matter the size, adds to something bigger - helping us reveal new layers of Scotland's globally celebrated creativity. This is a shared endeavour, and we warmly invite others to be part of this exciting journey to protect, celebrate and reimagine this legacy for future generations."

Further announcements relating to Mackintosh Illuminated will follow throughout 2026.

To donate to The National Trust for Scotland's Mackintosh Illuminated project visit [Mackintosh Illuminated | National Trust for Scotland](#)

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Images:

The Mackintosh Tearooms: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/s9t6H1J9o5>

The Hill House: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/799R91A48f>

About Mackintosh Illuminated

Mackintosh Illuminated is a major National Trust for Scotland project focused on conserving, celebrating and reinterpreting the work and legacy of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Margaret Macdonald Mackintosh. Anchored by the Hill House in Helensburgh and The Mackintosh Tearooms in Glasgow, the project aims to transform

public understanding, both locally and globally, of their creative partnership while securing the long-term future of two internationally significant heritage sites.

About the National Trust for Scotland

Established in 1931, the National Trust for Scotland is Scotland's largest conservation charity and cares for, shares and speaks up for Scotland's magnificent heritage.

For more than 90 years, the Trust has pioneered public access to and shared ownership of some of the most magnificent buildings, collections and landscapes in Scotland. It cares for more than 100 sites, from ancient houses to battlefields, castles, mills, gardens, coastlines, islands, mountain ranges and the plants and animals which depend upon them.

In March 2022 the National Trust for Scotland launched *Nature, Beauty & Heritage for Everyone*, its ten-year strategy which sets out the ambitions of the charity over the coming decade. From speaking up for Scotland's heritage which doesn't have a voice, to improving the lives and wellbeing of people across the country, and responding to the climate and biodiversity crisis, the Trust will build on its work in recent years to grow its impact and conserve and restore more of Scotland's heritage, as it moves towards its centenary in 2031.

Scotland's largest membership organisation, the National Trust for Scotland relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work.

For more information on the National Trust for Scotland visit www.nts.org.uk.

The National Trust for Scotland is a charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number SC 007410.