

29 September 2016

Catering operator appointed for V&A Dundee

Heritage Portfolio has been appointed to run the café, restaurant and events for V&A Museum of Design Dundee, the first V&A museum in the world outside of London.

The catering operation at V&A Dundee will be an essential part of the visitor experience with a welcoming café in the main hall, a spectacular restaurant with outdoor terrace overlooking the River Tay, and a range of unique spaces throughout the museum that are able to host events and dinners through into the evening.

The Edinburgh-based company runs highly successful cafes, restaurants and events at a range of visitor attractions including the [Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art](#), the [Scottish Portrait Gallery](#), the [Palace of Holyroodhouse](#), the [Signet Library](#) and [Scone Palace](#).

Heritage Portfolio is also the only catering company in Scotland to have been awarded a [Royal Warrant](#) as an official supplier of catering services to Her Majesty the Queen.

Philip Long, Director of V&A Dundee, said: "Heritage Portfolio is a world-class catering company that creates delicious food and stunning events.

"They will help us to develop V&A Dundee as a food destination, attracting local people and tourists to spend time in our café, enjoy the river views from the restaurant terrace, or organise special events for businesses and private celebrations.

"It's very important to V&A Dundee that our catering partner can look after all of our visitors, from healthy children's meals to after-work drinks, from business events to celebrations, and run this business sustainably to support the museum and the new jobs this partnership will create.

"Heritage Portfolio has a strong record of creating new jobs, and is committed to developing apprenticeships and graduates, and training its staff throughout their careers. It's a great partnership for us and for Dundee."

The contract to run the café, restaurant and events at V&A Dundee is intended to create up to 30 new permanent jobs in Dundee, plus many more flexible roles for catering large-scale events.

Mark Miller, Executive Director of Heritage Portfolio, said: "V&A Dundee is one of the most important and exciting developments happening in Scotland at this time and we are delighted to be a part of it.

"We're delighted to be joining Dundee's emerging restaurant scene. There is some fantastic local produce and we are looking forward to creating great dishes so that the residents of Dundee and further afield can enjoy delicious home-grown food in spectacular surroundings."

Heritage Portfolio will work with local colleges and universities to provide training and development for students, and give them opportunities to join a world-class business which also caters for large events for well-known fashion houses.

Louisa Kingham, Head of Hospitality, Professional Cookery and Travel & Tourism at Dundee & Angus College, said: “We look forward to working with Heritage Portfolio not only in their staffing to fulfil their roles, but to work closely with them to tailor, develop and refine the learner experience for the community to everyone’s benefit.”

The ground floor café will be in the main hall of V&A Dundee, where visitors first enter the museum. The upper floor restaurant, which includes a roof terrace overlooking RRS Discovery and the River Tay, will celebrate Scottish produce and cuisine. Menus in the café and restaurant will change with the seasons and the availability of high-quality produce locally.

Seventeen companies applied for the contract through an open tender process on the Public Contracts Scotland service.

(Ends)

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Additional information:

How will this contract benefit the people of Dundee and Tayside?

All applications were assessed on supporting local employment and developing local skills. Heritage Portfolio has a strong record of creating new jobs, running a sustainable and profitable business that will support the local economy, and investing in training staff at all levels.

The company also supports apprenticeship schemes and is continually increasing the number of apprenticeships it offers, helping to further develop strong relationships in local communities.

Applicants were also assessed on their use of local food and drink suppliers, which Heritage Portfolio is strongly committed to. The company uses many Scottish suppliers – including Simon Howie butchers, George Campbell & Sons fishmongers and Maxwell Desserts, all based in Perthshire. It will also develop new supplier relationships for V&A Dundee.

Heritage Portfolio also pays all of its staff the Living Wage as a minimum, regardless of age, a commitment shared by V&A Dundee.

How can local suppliers work with Heritage Portfolio?

Heritage Portfolio uses the Procure Wizard online system to work with businesses of all sizes. Any supplier signed up to the system receives alerts of the products Heritage Portfolio is looking to purchase.

The company also works with smaller suppliers to list products on their behalf, and has previously supported companies to join the system and develop their own businesses.

Any supplier who would like to find out more about supplying Heritage Portfolio can contact supplier@heritageportfolio.co.uk

How will Heritage Portfolio recruit staff in Dundee?

The company regularly works with colleges and universities to recruit staff. It will work with Dundee & Angus College to develop its catering, events and hospitality students, and give them opportunities to join a world-class catering business.

It will also organise Open Days for recruits and attend jobs fairs. Jobs will also be advertised through the Heritage Portfolio and V&A Dundee websites, jobs websites and social media.

Recruitment will be managed by Heritage Portfolio's HR Director Lisa Fisher who previously worked with both Dundee FC and Dundee United FC.

Notes to editors:

Heritage Portfolio

Heritage Portfolio was founded in Edinburgh in 2002 and since then has consistently produced outstanding catering and event services for private party, private dining, celebrations and corporate clients throughout the UK. They have also offered exceptional 'in-house' cafe services in some of Britain's leading visitor attractions, where they have developed a loyal repeat customer base.

Many of their business clients and venue partners have worked exclusively with the company, throughout the past decade and more, because they know they can put their faith in the highest possible standards of cooking, service and imaginative event delivery.

The company's mantra is 'to build a business to be proud of', and as they grow and flourish in the world of bespoke events and catering, they still remain true to their original ethos: to provide an amazing experience that goes beyond their remarkable food.

www.heritageportfolio.co.uk

V&A Dundee

V&A Museum of Design Dundee will be an international centre for design, housed in a world-class building created by Japanese architect Kengo Kuma at the heart of Dundee's revitalised waterfront. It will host major exhibitions, celebrate design heritage, inspire and promote contemporary talent, and encourage future design innovation.

V&A Dundee is being delivered by Design Dundee Ltd, founded by the Victoria and Albert Museum – the world's leading museum of art and design – Dundee City Council, the University of Dundee, Abertay University and Scottish Enterprise.

Key funders of the project to develop V&A Dundee include the Scottish Government, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Dundee City Council, the UK Government and Creative Scotland.

www.vandadundee.org