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## **Crispin Kelly named new Chair of Open-City**

Open-City, the leading architecture education organization, announced today that Crispin Kelly, CEO of Baylight Properties, will be the new Chair of its Board of Trustees.

He joins Open-City after an extremely successful 22<sup>nd</sup> year, in which the organisation again ran leading development and CSR initiatives for the built environment sector, introduced new community engagement and consultation programmes, and worked with 30 London councils.

In 2014, Open-City brought together over 1,800 professionals through over 50 events during the high-profile sustainability initiative Green Sky Thinking Week, whilst engaging a record number of Londoners with their built environment through programmes including Open House London, which had over 300,000 attendees, and two public debates for which there were a total of 7000 applicants.

In the past year Open-City has enhanced their role as the leading provider of architecture education for young people, with director Victoria Thornton advising on Education for the Farrell Architecture Review. 2014 saw over 500 primary school children involved in their annual Architecture in Schools programme, and 44 15-17 year olds mentored by architects through the Accelerate into University initiative, as well as over 3000 children and families attending 'Archikids' the annual children's architecture festival in the City of London's Square Mile.

Victoria Thornton, Founding Director of Open-City said:

"I am pleased that Crispin will be joining the Board of Trustees as chair and his wealth of experience will be invaluable in developing the next phase of the organization."

Crispin Kelly said:

"It's an exciting time to be joining Open City, which has been providing vital work in promoting the importance of architecture and the built environment across London. Over the next three years I look forward to working with Victoria and her team to grow the charity's outreach work, particularly to children and young people.

I am thankful to Open City for asking me to chair their crucial work – showing what good buildings and places can do for all of us. I am looking forward to giving my time and experience to help them to continue to thrive in the future."

Crispin Kelly has been CEO of Baylight since he founded the development and investment company in 1982, as a business which tries to develop buildings into sustainable communities through the tools of design and commercial viability. With

the ambition to create better housing, he has since set up Groundplan whose architects include Tony Fretton, Sergison Bates, Peter Salter and Florian Beigel. He studied Architecture at the AA, later to become President in 2001.

His interests include what good design can offer the ordinary housebuyer, and he has contributed extensively to architectural magazines and broadsheets on topics ranging from art in public space to the qualities of successful suburbs, as well as judging numerous design competitions and awards.

At Open-City, Crispin Kelly will chair a Board of Trustees which now includes Alison Brooks, Director of Alison Brooks Architects, Edwin Heathcote, FT Architecture critic, Stephen Howlett, CEO of Peabody, Helen Newman, Partner Olswang LLP, The Rt Hon Nick Raynsford MP, and Alan Stanton, Partner of Stanton Williams Architects.

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Open-City is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that aims to be at the centre of creating better places. It champions excellence in design quality and advocates for an inclusive and informed approach to the development of London.

With a basis of experience, expertise and research built up over more than two decades, Open-City encourages dialogue, debate and learning about how architecture and public space affects our daily lives, and to give people the tools and language to enable people to discover and understand how they can make informed decisions and really influence change in the built environment.

They are the only organisation that actively involves such a variety of stakeholders across London, connecting up those that plan, design and build the city to those that live and work in the city, both through their own action research and in their education, engagement and enabling programmes.

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