

Delft, 7 July 2021

## **The green light for restoration and renovation of the Museum Prinsenhof Delft**

**The design phase of the restoration and renovation of the Museum Prinsenhof Delft is about to begin. This was decided on July 6 by the Delft city council. The decision follows the extraordinary donation of €10 million to the Museum Prinsenhof Delft by the Vlek family of Delft. Combined with the municipal investment of €18 million, this results in a total budget of €28 million. The architecture firm BiermanHenket will head the design team.**

### **Necessary renovation**

The historic Prinsenhof complex – a former monastery that served as the court of William of Orange, Prince of Orange, in the 16th century – is urgently in need of renovation and substantial maintenance, 70 years since significant work was carried out on the complex. The municipal investment of €18 million will serve to restore this national Top 100 listed building to sound condition and preserve it for future generations.

### **Enhancing the museum function and visitors' experience**

With the Vlek family's donation of €10 million, Prinsenhof's museum function will be guaranteed for the future, by, among other things, upgrading the quality of facilities for an improved museum layout, introducing centralised museum climate control and improving the use of available rooms, for example for educational purposes. With their donation, the family is also contributing to the enhancement of the experience of the areas in and around the building, including the garden.

### **An extraordinarily generous donation**

The mayor and city council are extremely pleased about this ground-breaking development. "This positive decision enables us to renovate the museum after 70 years and to prepare it for the future. Prinsenhof as a national and international icon is closely associated with the evolution of the city and our country and it must be passed on to future generations in sound condition. Thanks to the extraordinarily generous donation by the Vlek family, we can now take the initial steps", says Marja van Bijsterveldt, mayor of Delft. "For this, we are extraordinarily grateful to the Vlek family."

### **Eminent and distinctive role**

"This is a moment for celebration for the museum", says Janelle Moerman, director of the Museum Prinsenhof Delft. "Now that the city council has made a positive decision, we can get to work realising our ambitions for restoration and renovation. The museum intends to play an eminent and distinctive role in the museum network of the Netherlands with appealing and high-quality exhibitions, such as our successful Pieter de Hooch exhibition, and public activities generating return visits to the city of Delft. All visitors, from residents of Delft to national and international tourists, should feel welcome here. I cannot emphasise enough how grateful we are for the Vlek family's donation, which gives the city council's decision an important boost."

### **Experienced design team**

The architecture firm BiermanHenket has extensive experience in restoring and renovating listed buildings and museums. They restored or renovated the Anne Frank House and the Beurs van Berlage in Amsterdam, for example, the museum Hof van Heeckeren in Zutphen and the Noordbrabants Museum in Den Bosch. All these buildings are listed buildings, like Prinsenhof. The architecture firm will head the design team. They will be collaborating with consultancy firms Huisman & Van Muijen (technical engineering consultants), ABT (consulting engineers), Peutz (building physics and fire protection) and BBA (cost consultancy). Plans call for a Preliminary Design by mid-2022 and a Definitive Design in early 2023. If execution begins in 2023, the project can be completed by late 2025.

### **Additional funding required**

In addition to the municipal investment and the donation, for the renovations to be carried out to the desired standard further funding is required. In the coming period, the city and the museum will approach other authorities, institutions, foundations and private individuals for contributions to the cost of the restoration and renovation of the Museum Prinsenhof Delft. The total cost of the planned renovation project is estimated at €37 million. With the €28 million now available, the design process can in any case begin.

### **About the Vlek family**

The Vlek family has been associated with Delft since 1855 and achieved prominence with its Vlek jenever. At the end of the 19th century, the family was involved in establishing the hospital Sint Hippolytusziekenhuis, now part of the Reinier de Graaf Gasthuis. Subsequent generations played a role in founding two schools, part of the present-day Stanislas College. Ruud Vlek managed several companies and is co-founder of the trading firm Optiver. The family now supports charities through the Delft Foundation De Lichtboei. With its donation to the Museum Prinsenhof Delft, the family aims to highlight its connection with Delft.

### **About the Museum Prinsenhof Delft**

The Museum Prinsenhof Delft is a multifaceted and dynamic museum located in the heart of the historic city. It tells the story of five centuries of Dutch history and, in particular, Delft's role in it. Three themes closely linked to the city – William the Silent, Prince of Orange, Delft Masters and Delftware – form the basis of the programmes. Visitors are immersed in the rich past, art and culture of Delft, which continue to make the city an inspiring place to this day. The museum is housed in the former monastery that temporarily served as the court of William the Silent in the 16th century. The building is included in the Cultural Heritage Agency's list of the 100 most important national monuments.

[www.prinsenhof-delft.nl](http://www.prinsenhof-delft.nl)

---

### **For more information (not for publication)**

For more information, please contact Heidi Vandamme, Marketing and Communications, +31 (0)6 295 32 686, [press-prinsenhof@delft.nl](mailto:press-prinsenhof@delft.nl).