

# Grand Bequest: Saving Scotland's history with data

Case Study



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# Grand Bequest

Founded in February 2020, Grand Bequest Ltd aims to save vacant buildings to be redeveloped and put back into use. We spoke with Katherine Gunderson, Founder and CEO of Grand Bequest, about the difference that The Data Lab has made for them.

## The Challenge

Up until now, the process of reusing buildings has been disconnected. In a bid to tackle the current system and the number of old buildings currently falling into disrepair, property tech company Grand Bequest wanted to help homeowners and city councils overcome the financial and operational obstacles of restoring historical real estate to its former glory.

The COVID pandemic was a very rocky time to be starting a business. Katherine had already established Grand Bequest as a B Corp but was aware that they needed a data platform and required technical expertise to take the idea forward.

**"The Data Lab [...] really believed in how data could be used to solve this social problem."**

## The Solution

The Data Lab developed a technical roadmap to turn Grand Bequest into an integrated, modern data platform - making it much more accessible. Getting connected to the right suppliers, finding funding and data expertise was essential to scale the business.

## The Outcomes

Funding and guidance from The Data Lab allowed Grand Bequest to trial different software and undertake data science training – gaining critical learnings in the early days of the company. They received support with promotion, networking, as well as guidance on navigating the Scottish funding landscape to find the cash needed to build the product.

Following an introduction by The Data Lab, Marc van Neerven joined Grand Bequest as Chief Technology Officer who helped to move their database onto the new integrated Azure platform.

Participating in The Data Lab's MSc and PhD placement programmes introduced data analytics and statistical knowledge to the company. It has allowed them to go from a start-up founded just before the pandemic to being a team of eight individuals – all working together to promote the redevelopment of the many vacant buildings that exist in Scotland and give them a new lease of life.

**"I have been able to get grant funding, people and PR. The Data Lab is like my fairy godmother!"**



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