



Gaynor Coley

Managing Director, The Eden Project

Gay Coley joined the Eden Project in 1997 after five years as Director of Finance at the University of Plymouth, one of the most successful new universities in the UK. She describes the move as “like stepping from an oil tanker onto a small speedboat with no petrol”. Her first job was to make the Project financially and commercially secure and she led the delivery of the groundbreaking public and private sector funding programme for the £140 million Project, winning Finance Team of the Year in 2001.

Eden has been an inspiration to many and over the last ten years under Gay’s commercial leadership as MD, Eden has attracted over 10 million visitors and has been a major economic engine, adding over £9m to the local economy.

Gay has a passion for education as a tool of transformation and after growing up in South Wales, studied Economics at London University.

She went into the City to understand how to unlock resources and qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Touche Ross. She moved to the West Country in 1987 and was voted Best Chartered Accountant in the 2005 ICAEW Regional Awards.

In 2009 Gay received the CBI Real Business First Women Award in Tourism and Leisure.

She is currently leading the strategy to extend Eden’s influential environmental brand and programmes across the world.

Strong Beliefs

Audacious visions backed by practical skills can make dramatic change happen

Ordinary people working together can build a better future for us all.

Inspiration and trust can unlock hidden talent.

Social Enterprise could become the business model for the future.

Themes

How to turn dreams into a thriving business reality.

How recruiting for potential, not past, drives great business performance.

How to use collaboration to deliver your business.

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