

Community Creativity Boosted through Creative Place: ProjectARTS Programme

ProjectARTS is supporting local artists, community groups and businesses to make creative projects happen in and around Forres.

As part of the Forres Area Creative Place Programme managed by Findhorn Bay Arts, ProjectARTS has supported a total of 16 local creative projects using £20k of award funding to bring arts and creative learning to over 200 local people through a series of free activities, workshops and have-a-go sessions since Spring 2016.

In the fourth and final round of supported projects, up-coming activities include singing workshops, Indian culture celebrations, and theatre and sound making workshops.

Community participants are invited to join Andrea Turner on a creative learning journey of poetic, literary and visual exploration of the River Findhorn from the source to the sea. Through a series of workshops participants are encouraged to contribute their own ideas and expressions to the piece culminating in a local live performance.

Part of the national celebration of Indian Year of Culture, Falconer Museum Forres has teamed up with local artist Marion Normand to create a vivid and exciting *Indian Adventure*. Held over the Festival of Museums weekend Friday 19 to Sunday 21 May, local people of all ages can come together and have fun making brightly coloured traditional Indian decorations and attend a 'Holi' where unique stories, colours and traditions of India culture will be creativity explored alongside drumming, dance, song, music, food and faith for all to join.

Also celebrating Indian culture in Forres, experience a *Sub Asian Sound Kitchen* with local restaurant Cardamon Spice. Musician Dave Martin and filmmaker Graeme Roger will create a film and sound installation from the bustling Cardamon Spice kitchen mixed with footage from Bangladesh. The piece will be showcased for local people to enjoy during the *Indian Adventure* weekend celebration in May.

Moray based Scottish Theatre Company Frozen Charlotte will work with a group of young people and carers in the Forres area to explore the idea of "essentials" in a project titled *Indispensable Me*. Creative workshops exploring themes around life essentials will be led by Heather Fulton using drama, performance, movement and visual art, culminating in a sharing for friends and family to attend.

Chris Lee of Wildbrid and Steve Gasgarth of Electrolabs will work with a group of young people at FAYZ (Forres House Community centre Youth Group) to create *Sound Bites*. Drawing upon the creative ideas of young people and responding to the local area, participants will have the opportunity to write, perform, record and produce an original piece for digital artwork.

Findhorn Bay Arts Director Kresanna Aigner said "In this, the last round of ProjectARTS support, we saw a fantastic range of ideas connecting creativity with community and/or business. An independent advisory panel with expertise in public arts projects, design, tourism, and community development assessed applications totalling £17k for consideration with only £5k available to award; this made for a very competitive project round"

ProjectArts is part of the Forres Area Creative Place Programme, an award and accolade given by Creative Scotland to enable, enhance and promote the local creative activities. Over the course of the year, ProjectARTS has supported 16 creative collaborations, so far involving ten community groups, nine businesses and reaching over 200 local participants.

ProjectARTS panel member Bob Kenny added, "Creativity in the Forres area has been enhanced hugely through the Creative Place Awards and the ProjectARTS programme. It has enabled several new initiatives to get started and with such success that many partnerships between arts, community groups and businesses are looking at ways to continue the creative relationship together.

It has been a privilege to help support existing and fledgling artists alike and to bring art and creativity into the Forres community".

To find out more about Forres Area Creative Place Programme and to get involved with Project ARTS activities please visit www.findhornbayarts.com, sign up to the mailing list online and visit our social media pages @FindhornBayArts

ENDS

Contact

For further information, images or interviews please contact:

Samantha Fraser

07843 842890 or 01309 673137

assistant@findhornbayarts.com

Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/findhornbayarts

Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/@findhornbayarts

Images

Please caption and credit images as indicated in filename

Notes to Editors

1. Findhorn Bay Arts (www.findhornbayarts.com)

Findhorn Bay Arts is a creative producer of cultural events and activities rooted in the communities of Forres, Findhorn and Moray.

Objectives:

- To produce high quality cultural events that attract local and visiting audiences to the Findhorn Bay Area.
- To support artists in developing and presenting artworks that engage with and respond to this context
- To grow audiences of all ages through long-term engagement with creative experiences.
- To encourage participation in cultural activities, removing barriers to awareness and participation

2. Creative Place Programme & ProjectARTS

The Creative Place awards programme is for smaller communities across Scotland, outside of the main cities, to enable them to enhance and promote the creative activities and programmes in their area. The awards recognise the communities' ambitions in using the arts for the benefit of both local residents and visitors to their area.

Run by Creative Scotland and supported by EventScotland the awards encourage cultural organisations, community groups and/ or local authorities to represent their village, town or other community, and bid for an award to further develop their creative programme and profile.

The Forres area Creative Place Programme enabled ProjectARTS through £20,000 of funding to support the creation of a wide range of public art and creative work which connects with local businesses, community organisations and local residents to engage new audiences and pave a local creative legacy. Funds will be allocated through an awards process over the course of the award period.