

# FINDHORN BAY ARTS



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## **FINDHORN BAY ARTS RECEIVE VOLUNTEER FRIENDLY AWARD**

**Local arts and culture organisation Findhorn Bay Arts have received a Volunteer Friendly Award from tsiMoray in recognition of their outstanding work involving volunteers.**

The Volunteer Friendly Award is a quality standard aimed to support, acknowledge and reward organisations who have an inclusive volunteering approach within the community. The award to Findhorn Bay Arts highlights the exceptional code of volunteer practice and equality standards followed by the organisation for the benefit of individual development and community participation.

The award is supported and awarded through tsiMoray and was presented to Findhorn Bay Arts by Jenny Devlin, Volunteering & Group Development Manager. Jenny said "Findhorn Bay Arts has a diverse range of volunteering opportunities available throughout the year and a role for everyone to get involved". She continued "it is an organisation that stands with open arms to all volunteer participants and they are a lead example for volunteer engagement."

The Findhorn Bay Arts portfolio of volunteering opportunities has included roles in three past Culture Days, the 1<sup>st</sup> Findhorn Bay Arts Festival, Youth Arts Ambassador roles, and as artists in productions such as *Macbeth The Remix* which involved 120 local participants and *To Begin...* with the National Theatre of Scotland that showcased on Culture Day 2015.

Vicky Flood, Volunteer Co-ordinator for Culture Day and the Findhorn Bay Festival said that "events such as Culture Day and the biennial festival just wouldn't happen without dedicated volunteers. Volunteer input has been received in many ways both artistically and to support administration as well as through event management and stewarding." She added, "it is fantastic to have people of all ages and all abilities coming on board to support the organisation. It's brilliant that volunteers are able to grow personally and increase their confidence through voluntary work with us."

Findhorn Bay Arts has a programme of creative engagement that takes place throughout the year that culminates in the showcase of Culture Day and the biennial Findhorn Bay Festival. Local young person Abi Smith, who has volunteered with the organisation during 2015 also scooped a Saltire Award for her outstanding voluntary contribution. Abi volunteered through IGNITE: Moray Youth Arts Hub in roles as a Cabaret Host, stall attendant and as an arts ambassador

Gill Bird, Outreach and Audience Development Manager for Findhorn Bay Arts added "the whole team are heartened to have received the Volunteer Friendly Award by

tsiMoray. We work very hard to engage and include people in all walks of life in our creative endeavours and this award is testament to that.” Gill presented Abi Smith with her Saltire Award last month. Abi said “volunteering with Findhorn Bay Arts has been really fun. I’ve learnt new things, made new friends and the experience has helped me get a part time job too”. Gill added “it is especially encouraging to see younger people like Abi be creatively involved and benefit from volunteering”

To find out more about volunteering opportunities with Findhorn Bay Arts please visit [www.findhornbayarts.org](http://www.findhornbayarts.org)

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## **Notes to Editors**

### 1. Findhorn Bay Arts ([www.findhornbayarts.com](http://www.findhornbayarts.com))

Findhorn Bay Arts is a non-profit arts organisation, connecting creativity, people and place by:

- Delivering high quality arts events and projects.
- Nurturing and showcasing the creativity of the people of Moray.
- Celebrating and promoting Moray as a place for outstanding arts.

### 2. Volunteer Friendly Award ([www.volunteerfriendly.org](http://www.volunteerfriendly.org))

The Volunteer Friendly Award is a simple, user-friendly quality standard designed by Volunteer Centre Dundee to support, recognise and reward groups who are good at involving volunteers.

### 3. tsiMoray Organisation Volunteering Awards ([www.tsimoray.org.uk/#!awards/c1wds](http://www.tsimoray.org.uk/#!awards/c1wds))

tsiMoray support organisations to take a systematic and flexible approach to look at how they undertake and manager volunteers