

FINDHORN BAY ARTS

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate use

Findhorn Bay Arts Awards Just Under £38,000 To Nine Local Artists To Develop Programmes Of Creative Activity Across Moray For Children And Young People

Findhorn Bay Arts has today announced that eight project recipients are to receive funding from them as part of the Youth Arts Small Grants scheme, a Scottish Government Covid-19 funding package to support the arts, administered by Creative Scotland. An additional £2,000 will support the creative practitioners with training and documentation of their activities.

The overall scheme had funds totalling £700,000 to devolve funds of between £10k and £50k for locally artist-led projects in early learning, schools, and other family support and community settings. Findhorn Bay Arts was one of 18 organisations in Scotland to be awarded one of the grants to distribute to artists and creative practitioners to develop programmes of arts activity that engage with a range of local organisations, children and young people in Moray, especially those most affected by Covid-19.

Kresanna Aigner, Director, Findhorn Bay Arts said: “We were delighted to receive funding to disseminate to Moray-based artists and creative practitioners. Lockdown has impacted on everyone’s mental health and our children and young people have suffered a lot because of the social isolation of not being able to see or play with their friends. We are thrilled that the awards we are announcing today will help towards restoring a degree of normality to Moray children and young people.”

She added: “We have first-hand experience of how the creative arts can help increase confidence and self-belief but most of all, our children and young people will have fun accessing the gamut of the creative arts.”

The Moray fund was open to freelance artists and creative practitioners living and/or working in the local authority and up 50 miles in neighbouring regions who were looking to work directly with children and young people across the region. The funding will build on the work of Ignite Moray Youth Arts Hub that was supported by Creative Scotland’s Time to Shine, Scotland’s National Youth Arts Strategy.

Twelve applications were received totalling £57,000 and were assessed by a panel of local specialist advisors - see Notes for Editors for a list of panel members. As well as ensuring the basic criteria was adhered to, the panel also took into account that any funding awarded would:

- support a range of art forms;
- provide a geographic spread across the region;
- engage with a range of local organisations and;
- engage with a range of young people especially those most affected by Covid-19.

Panel member, Eilidh Brown, Partnership Development Lead, tsiMORAY said: 'It's brilliant to see this investment in the wellbeing of children and young people through an exciting and energising range of creative activities in Moray. These projects include innovative and inspiring arts and opportunities for play and reconnection, bringing joy, fresh hope and light at the end of the tunnel for children, families and communities hit hard by the pandemic.'

Eight awards totalling £37,664.50 ranging between £4,000 - £5,000 have been awarded to nine artists and creative practitioners.

The eight project awardees are:

Daniel McQuarrie	£ 4,000.00	"What Makes You Happy' Film Project for Young People	Film-making	12-17 years
Rachael MacIntyre	£ 4,792.00	Circus Connections' Workshops in Circus Skills for Young People	Circus Skills	8-16 years
Carol Scorer	£ 4,095.00	Storytelling and percussion Workshops for Young People	Storytelling & Music	2-5 years
Ruby Worth	£ 5,000.00	'Embodied Learning and Dance Movement Therapy for Young People	Dance/ Movement	9-10 year olds
Gail Sneddon	£ 5,000.00	'Traces' Dance Film Project for Young People	Dance/ Graffiti Art	11-18 years
Steven Sharpe	£ 5,000.00	Drum and Percussion Workshops for Young People	Music	3-5 years
Nicola Kennell	£ 4,793.00	Mixed Media Workshops for Young People	Mixed Media	12-25 years
Graeme Roger & Dave Martin	£ 4,984.50	Film and Music Project for Young People	Film & Music	12-17 years

Nicola Kennell, Project Manager/Art Therapist said: "The opportunity to collaborate and deliver this project with Aberlour Youth Point is really exciting and will provide a much needed creative outlet for the young people to express how Covid-19 has impacted on their lives. The project will enable the young people to work individually and as part of a group sharing and developing their ideas together."

She added: "As an arts practitioner, I know that at times some young people can find it challenging to describe their experiences. The use of art as a means of self-expression could help develop a voice for their thoughts and ideas. I hope that the project will enable those taking part to discover

new ways of expressing themselves through using a broad range of art materials, which, in turn, will help each individual to develop new ways of expressing themselves creatively.”

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Project award summaries:

Daniel McQuarrie

A seven-day long film project supporting a group of 10-15 young people aged between 12-17 years to make a short film based on the theme 'What Makes You Happy'. The project will be delivered in partnership with Elgin Youth Café.

Rachael MacIntyre

Circus Connections will deliver a programme of circus skills to young people, who will also make their own circus kits. The aim is to encourage creativity, empowerment and bringing young people together in a time of isolation. The project will work with 20-30 young people aged 8-16 years in partnership with Moray Council Locality Wellbeing Officer and the Youth Work Team.

Carol Scorer

The project will deliver over 30 'expressive rhythmical storytelling' sessions to 2-5 year olds in nurseries across Moray. Each session will be 30 minutes in length and involve up to 20 young people. The themes of the workshops will include local stories and rhymes, world stories of different cultures, natural world, mythical and real creatives of the sea.

Ruby Worth

A 20-week programme of Embodied Learning and Dance Movement Therapy that supports young people to integrate their experiences of Covid-19 through exploring appropriate themes and topics. These will link into their school curriculum. The workshops are aimed at 9-10 years olds in a Moray Primary School within school term time.

Gail Sneddon

Traces is a dance film where a group of young people through movement and Graffiti art, transfer an empty white modular space into a monochromatic futuristic wonderland by imprinting traces of their past and hopes for their future. The project will work with 12 young people aged 11-18 years old, from Forres and the surrounding areas in partnership with Dance North Scotland.

Steven Sharpe

A series of high quality Drum and percussion workshops for early years in Forres. Workshops will be delivered in 2 nurseries for children aged 3-5 years, with a total of 60-80 children taking part. The workshops will use the Orff music pedagogy, rhythm games, songs, stories, rhymes and movement-based activities. The aim of the workshops is to improve musical literacy, confidence and health and well-being in children. A 6-week programme of workshops will be delivered in 2 nurseries in Forres. Each nursery will receive 4 x 45-minute workshops each week with approximately 15-20 children in each workshop. 2 members of staff will also take part.

Nicola Kennell

The project will deliver a series of mixed media art sessions for both groups and individuals where they can explore different creative ways of self-expression. They will engage 20 young people aged 12-25 years, working in partnership with Aberlour Youth Point. The focus will be on the theme 'Past Present and Future' and will give the participants scope to draw on a range of experiences and connections.

Graeme Rodger & Dave Martin

Creation of a site-specific installation created by participants with an accompanying sound track. The site is to be confirmed but it is an outdoor public art event. Film and music content will be created by young people from Milnes High School, and 3 local communities (Lhanbryde/ Fochabers/ Garmouth) taking part in after school sessions and community based workshops. This content will then be part of a public art installation where the film and accompanying sound track will be projected.

The aim of the funding is to support this network of artists to deliver additional youth arts activity that will engage children and young people in the Moray area in a variety of settings including:

- delivering activities to young people attending local youth groups;
- delivering activities within schools;
- working with young people at risk;
- working with young people who live in areas of social and economic deprivation.

Key outcomes are to:

- empower Findhorn Bay Arts' network of Freelance Youth Arts Practitioners to deliver activity for the benefit of children and young people in the Moray over a sustained period;
- provide new opportunities for children and young people to take part in creative activities, removing barriers to participation such as financial, geographical, and lack of opportunity;
- strengthen and broaden the organisation's connections with these practitioners.
- strengthen partnerships between youth providers and local freelance youth arts practitioners.
- enhance existing arts activity in Moray, and identify the gaps and space for improvement and sustainable approaches for the long-term benefit of children and youth arts provision in Moray.

Panel members comprised:

Kresanna Aigner, Director, Findhorn Bay Arts; **Fiona Herd**, Children's Wellbeing Services, Moray Council; **Elidh Brown**, Partnership Development Lead, tsiMORAY; **Stacey Toner**, Director, Moray Arts Development Engagement (MADE)/ Moray College; **Garry Collins**, Creative Director, Out of the Darkness Theatre Company.

The panel meeting was chaired by **Jennifer McGlone**, Manager, Glow Arts, a Glasgow based creative and community consultancy company.

Time to Shine is Scotland's first National Youth Arts Strategy (PDF). It sets out a ten-year vision to enable Scotland's children and young people to flourish and achieve in and through the arts and creativity. Time to Shine launched in 2013.

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