

FINDHORN BAY ARTS

# Annual Report 2024



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

---

We've had a great year, with one major highlight being that we were awarded our first-ever multi-year funding award from Creative Scotland. This is a big step forward in helping us bring more creative projects to life in Moray and beyond. This funding will support our next three year programme of activities. This report reflects on our achievements over a 14-month period of funding between February 2024 - April 2025, which was underpinned by the Creative Scotland Extended Programme Fund as well as other funders.

Our programme started with our commission for the **Findhorn Watershed Initiative**, to produce a programme of creative and cultural engagement activities in the lower River Findhorn. We worked with artist and river animateur **Eve Mosher** to explore our relationship with the local environment, celebrating the river, its ecosystems, and its wildlife.

We also deepened our international partnerships through our work with **Hirundo Rustica**, hosting musicians-in-residence including **Dopey Monkey** (from Moray), and **Jean-Luc Thomas and Gab Faure** (from Brittany). Our global connections grew further during a five-day residency with **The Hooligan Collective** from Kyiv, collaborating with students from the University of the Highlands and Islands.

Locally, we continued to support artists such as **Heather Fulton, Ruby Worth, Rachael Macintyre**, and **Kate MacKay**. Together, we tried out new creative approaches and explored what it means to collaborate around shared values. With Kate, we worked on transforming everyday spaces to support wellbeing and create welcoming environments—one highlight being an indoor 'oasis' during the Findhorn Bay Festival.

Our **5th Findhorn Bay Festival** was a huge success and showed just how strong local support has become. We brought top-quality theatre, dance, visual art, music, and more to Moray. We also backed community projects like **Window Wanderland**, and supported a new street theatre collaboration between **Surge** and **Out of the Darkness Theatre Company**.

The Imaginarium's **Missing Museum** was a space where hidden stories came to life, where time travel existed, allowing the past, present, and future to collide in delightfully unexpected ways. They say it takes a village. Here in Forres, it takes a whole town!

Finally, I want to thank our amazing team, board, partners, funders, and, of course, our audiences and supporters. Your continued dedication makes everything we do possible.

**Kresanna Aigner**

*CEO / Creative Director*

Findhorn Bay Arts

# Contents

<b>About Us</b> .....	<b>4</b>	<b>Our Organisation</b> .....	<b>28</b>
Our Mission.....	5	Fair Work.....	29
Our Values.....	5	Equity, Diversity & Inclusion.....	30
Our Aims.....	6	Climate Emergency & Sustainability.....	32
2024 Impacts.....	7	<b>Our Finances</b> .....	<b>34</b>
<b>Our Work</b> .....	<b>8</b>	<b>Looking Ahead</b> .....	<b>37</b>
Residencies & Commissions.....	10	FBA Produces.....	39
Creative Learning & Participation.....	18	FBA Supports.....	40
Festival & Events.....	21	FBA Connects.....	41

FINDHORN BAY ARTS



**About Us**

## Our Mission

Findhorn Bay Arts is dedicated to connecting, engaging and celebrating Moray's communities, places, and people through exceptional and diverse creative experiences that challenge, inspire, and delight.

## Our Values

We will work:

with  
**Openness &  
Exploration**

in  
**Partnership &  
Collaboration**

with  
**Connection &  
Hope**

with  
**Equity &  
Respect**

to  
**Conserve &  
Foster**

## Our Aims

Curate and deliver a biennial festival that inspires and nurtures opportunities for local, national and international artists, that connects people and places and brings value to Moray, its communities and residents.

---

Provide equitable experiences for audiences and participants through long-term creative projects and activities forged through collaborations and strengthened networks.

---

Curate and deliver a range of local, national and international exchanges, commissions and residencies that connects with, enhances and supports Moray-based creative practitioners

---

Ensure there are the financial and people resources to deliver and manage all organisational objectives and risks.

---

Build brand awareness, audience engagement and cross-sectoral recognition for our work.

---

FINDHORN BAY ARTS

# 2024 Impacts

**20**

networking events

---

**12,800+**

audiences attending events

---

**270**

artists supported

---

**48**

freelance event and production  
professionals engaged

---

**129**

events, performances and  
exhibitions

---

**2,270+**

participants engaging with creative  
activities

---

**£687,202**

estimated local economic benefit  
from Findhorn Bay Festival

---

**59**

volunteers contributed

---

**114**

workshops

---



FINDHORN BAY ARTS

# Our Work



## What We Do

### FESTIVALS & EVENTS

We host and stage a wide range of events in venues big, small, inside and out – as well as everywhere in between.



### RESIDENCIES & COMMISSIONS

We are committed to working with, and supporting, artists locally, nationally and internationally through a programme of residencies and new commissions.



### CREATIVE LEARNING & PARTICIPATION

We work with people of all ages and abilities to help them explore their creativity and develop new skills.



# Residencies & Commissions

## FINDHORN WATERSHED INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP AND COMMISSION

---

To support the community engagement strand of the [Findhorn Watershed Initiative](#), the [Findhorn, Nairn and Lossie Rivers Trust](#) (FNLRT) commissioned Findhorn Bay Arts (FBA) to deliver a programme of creative and cultural projects in the lower River Findhorn watershed area. With [Eve Mosher](#) as the River Animateur/Creative Practitioner, the aim was to help animate the unfolding ecological restoration activities and increase a sense of nature connection and belonging to the watershed.

The programme ran from October 2023 to March 2024.

As the population of the lower watershed is over 30,000 people, it was necessary to find modes and methods of engagement that were accessible to people of all ages and appeared in a variety of locations and formats. We worked with an audience of approximately 3,000 people and directly collaborated through 22 engagement opportunities including one-on-one conversations and events engaging people in creative activities with over 400 individuals, aged between 2-92.

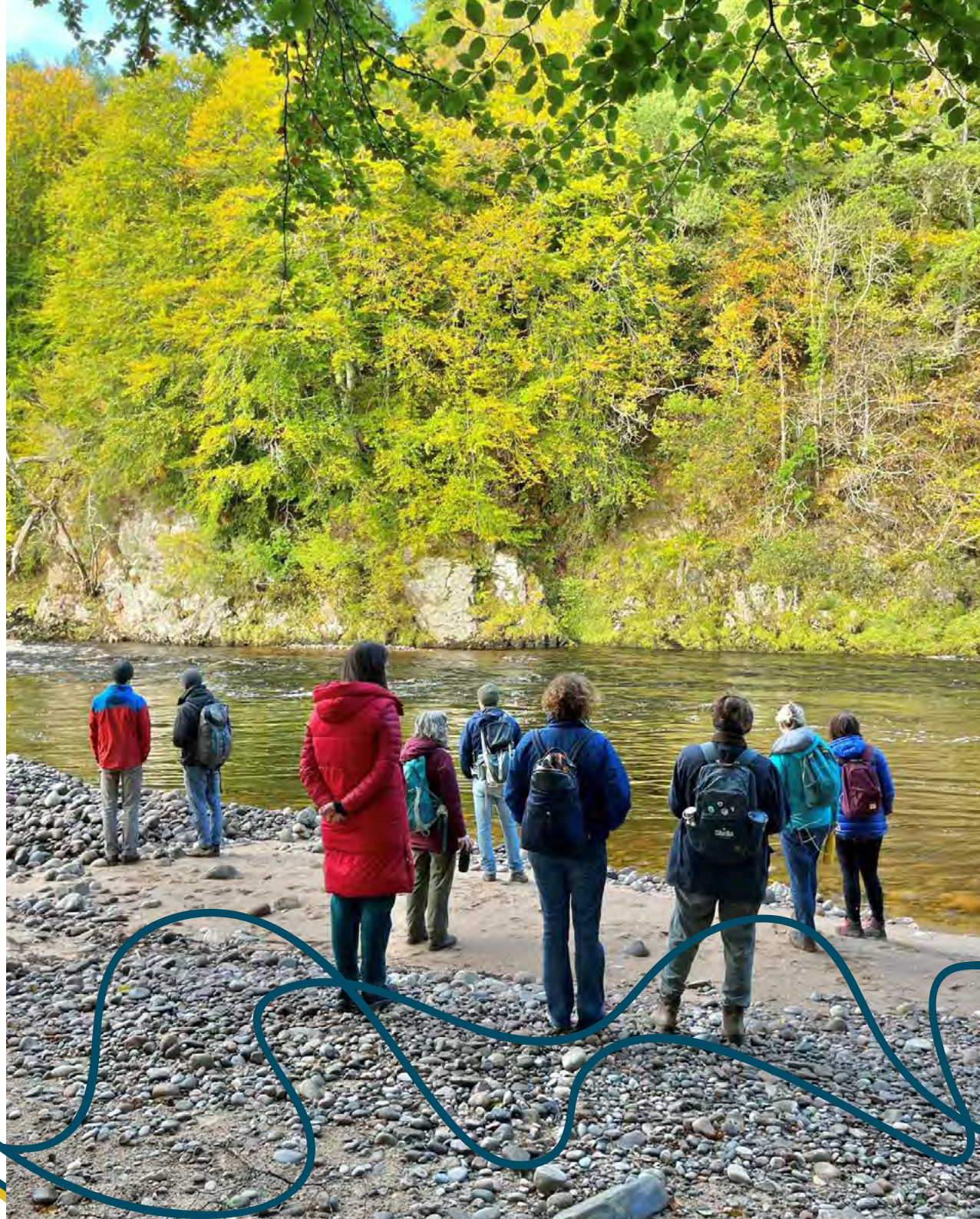
The process unearthed participants' existing connection to the River Findhorn whilst providing a sense of how and why people resonate with it. We inspired people along the way to deepen their connection to the river through different ways of seeing, through creative experimentation and through their

own creative expressions. Throughout the programme, we identified and partnered with artists who had existing relationships with the River Findhorn and its communities, supporting their deepening and evolving connections whilst building on and learning from their experiences.

Our anchor for engagement with the lower watershed communities was a six metre map of the River Findhorn watershed. Hand painted by Eve with tea and coffee to mimic the peaty colours of the river, this map evidenced the scale of the watershed and included both the river and all of its tributaries and outflow into the bay and sea. Infrastructure and identifiers were deliberately left off the watershed map. This required participants to take the time to look closely at it and identify their connection

to different geologically influenced segments of the River Findhorn. It invited a game of identifying different shapes of the river, which also showed how well people already know certain parts.

The watershed map allowed us to invite people to conversation to achieve a better understanding of how people connect with the River Findhorn and what kinds of connections leave a lasting impression. Even if people weren't immediately aware of their connection, they were drawn in through curiosity and could read reflections from others to prompt their own memory. It became a collective community experience and communal telling of the river's winding narrative.





## INTERNATIONAL MUSIC EXCHANGE BRITTANY/MORAY

---

We were thrilled to work with [Hirundo Rustica](#) (Brittany, France) to facilitate our first international exchange supporting artists to connect with each other and their respective communities to share the music, stories and traditions they are influenced by. This was an international collaboration between musicians Danielle Price and Martin Lee Thomson aka Dopey Monkey – who are both originally from Moray – and musicians Jean-Luc Thomas and Gab Faure from Brittany, France.

This international exchange saw the musicians sharing tunes from their respective repertoires and cultural traditions, and collaborating on new pieces in an exchange of tunes, stories and the cultures they come from through a residency embedded in each others' respective rural communities in the summer of 2024, culminating with performances as part of the 5th Findhorn Bay Festival in September 2024.

## COMMUNITY EMBEDDED ARTIST RESIDENCIES

### Artist Residency - Eve Mosher

Combine to Create was a collaborative programme of creative activities in Moray supported by Creative Scotland through the [Culture Collective Fund](#). Through this programme, artist Eve Mosher has worked with communities on the water's edge for over 15 years, utilising creativity to inspire and uncover our connections to waterways and their ecosystems. Building on this and her research undertaken as part of her River Animateur residency with the Findhorn Watershed Initiative, Eve further explored our connections to the watershed and invited others into a process of making related to celebrating nature and the natural world, local waterways, the watersheds ecosystems and its inhabitants

During her three month residency, Eve spent time re-visiting the landscape of the area as well as working with local elders of Findhorn Village in creative explorations to prompt conversations of the environment in which they live. She also took creative work out to public events to spark thoughts on the connections to the natural world around us, engaging with around 60 people.

Her residency concluded with a final sharing of work created and co-created with members of the local community. There was a screening of a new two-channel video piece, *Water, Wind, and Light*, at the James Milne Institute in Findhorn and the event also featured the final creative-making workshop of her Findhorn Bay Arts residency.



## The Missing Museum

As part of Combine to Create, [The Imaginarium's Missing Museum](#) was a space where hidden stories came to life, where time travel existed, allowing the past, present, and future to collide in delightfully unexpected ways.

The Forres Edition of *The Missing Museum* was an exchange and residency delivered in partnership with [The Stove Network](#) and [What We Do Now](#) in Dumfries and Galloway, artist DJ McDowall (founder of The Imaginarium) and in collaboration with local artist and storyteller Margot Henderson.

Produced by Findhorn Bay Arts, The Imaginarium's *Missing Museum* was a space for imagining possibilities and was supported by seven professional artists and five production freelancers with four volunteers supporting front-of-house over the two days. 29 local people participated by taking part in a programme of creative learning and workshops, which included 11 adults participating as performers/players and 18 young people from the GAFF and Forres Academy making artefacts for the displays.

DJ and Margot undertook a period of research and development and engaged with local people, community groups and organisations to uncover the hidden stories of Forres. As part of the initial research and development for *The Missing Museum*, the artists met with local organisations including [FACT](#), [Forres Heritage Trust](#), and the [Friends of the Falconer Museum](#). Local storykeepers, Ray Mills and Norman Thomson, brought to the project the story of Madeline MacPherson and her salon and the story of the Rev. Keith's Herbarium celebrating Forres' natural heritage.

On Friday 28 and Saturday 29 March at the Forres Tolbooth, The Imaginarium's *Missing Museum* culminated in interactive workshop sessions that invited the public to become Community Co-Curators. Over the two days, 78 people attended The Missing Museum Interactive Workshops and Events.



*“The power of The Missing Museum dwells not in its walls—because, quite simply, it has none. It exists within empty rooms, in the liminal spaces, a museum that lives and breathes within the expansiveness and responsiveness of The Imaginarium. Here, we don't just dwell in the possibilities; we actively create them.”*

— DJ McDowall

## Hooligan Art Community

Findhorn Bay Arts partnered with [Hooligan Art Community](#), a theatre company from Kyiv, which creates work that advocates for freedom of expression and equality. The company devises brave, unconventional theatre performances, using music, movement and text. Hooligan Art Community undertook a five day residency, and during this time delivered theatre and music workshops for 16 student participants from the [University of the Highlands and Islands, Inverness](#).

Drawing inspiration from football chants, minimalism and pop music, participants created music and movement for a 'Hooligan chorus'. Guided by composer Jessie and director Pete, they worked collaboratively with the team in a professional theatre-making environment. At the end of the workshops, the new material was shared 'In The Round' at Kinloss Church reaching an audience of 25 people as part of the Findhorn Bay Festival.



*"We saw a remarkable transformation of the students between the start of our workshops on the Wednesday morning to the performative sharing at Kinloss Church on the Sunday afternoon, with strong signs of personal and collective development throughout. What was achieved in these four workshop days was understanding that belonging and individuality can be found through holding space for creative curiosity and play, which we hope will inspire the participants in their future devised theatre module at UHI, but also support them in their creative and personal lives going forward." – Pete Cant, Hooligan Art Collective*



## SPACE FOR WELLBEING

---

The seeds of [Space for Wellbeing](#) were sown during lead artist Kate MacKay's Findhorn Bay Arts Combine to Create Residency (part of the Culture Collective Programme). During this residency, Kate's reflective practices including writing, nature and observation were able to meet her professional engagement practices of making, storytelling and connection.

Supported by Creative Scotland's Participatory Arts and Mental Health Fund, we continued to work with Kate to reimagine our everyday spaces to enhance wellbeing for everyone, whilst removing barriers for the most vulnerable. Kate worked with neurodivergent textile artist and designer Jen Cantwell, autistic sound artist Dave Martin, garden designer Eva Zandman, autistic multi-disciplinary artist Iona Zawinski and neurodivergent young volunteer photographer Nina Martindale.

Through a series of creative workshops and research sessions, the project focused on elements such as light, colour, plants and sound. The sessions aimed to foster positive mental health while exploring the sensory needs of participants. During the 5th Findhorn Bay Festival, these creative explorations culminated in the transformation of Forres House Community Centre into an indoor oasis – a tranquil and inviting public space designed to reflect the project's ethos.



As part of the research sessions, participants were invited to share personal experiences related to inclusion, creativity, the environment and safety. During the creative workshops, the artists worked collaboratively to reflect on the space, and used a variety of locally sourced, natural and low-cost materials to generate ideas for a supportive, sensory-focused environment. By combining elements from the natural world, sound installation, acoustic sound clouds, photography and film, participants and artists co-created a new installation and sensory space: Space for Wellbeing.

Space for Wellbeing was presented as a temporary, interactive exhibition at Forres House Community Centre during the 5th Findhorn Bay Festival, attracting over 300 visitors. Feedback from visitors highlighted multiple benefits, including the value of the space for individuals with sensory sensitivities; the sense of calm and relaxation fostered by the installation; and the importance of incorporating elements of nature into indoor environments to build greater connections with the natural world. Visitors overwhelmingly supported the idea of making Space for Wellbeing a permanent feature, or creating similar spaces in other locations.



*"We need places like this to make space and calmness in our heads. Life moves very fast now; even when we sit and rest, we use our phones; there is no time for us to rest our brains and collect our thoughts' – Visitor*

# Festival & Events



## FINDHORN BAY FESTIVAL

---

The 5th biennial [Findhorn Bay Festival](#) took place over ten days, between the 20th and 29th of September 2024, radiating from the town of Forres and the communities of Findhorn across Moray. Overall the festival attracted approximately 10,565 attendances across audiences, creative programme, participants, artists, volunteers, and staff, presenting 60 ticketed shows and free events (comprising 119 individual performances and exhibitions).

The 5th Findhorn Bay Festival attracted a total audience of 8,986. Approximately 58% of attendees were from Moray, 34% from the rest of Scotland, 5% from elsewhere in the UK, and 2% were international visitors. Compared to the previous festival, these figures represent an increased percentage of regional audiences as well as a slight increase in international audiences, suggesting that local support has strengthened.

In terms of access and participation, the festival engaged 1,244 people from diverse communities. This includes 778 participatory attendances, including young people showcasing their talent, children and students participating in creative learning events, and adults with learning disabilities creating street theatre performances. Community

groups, schools, and families contributed to window-based art projects, while neurodivergent children, young people, and their families joined creative workshops and drop-in spaces. Participants reported increased opportunities to engage with creative activities, stronger community connections, and a sense of pride. Additionally, 466 attendees gained access to the arts through partnerships with 11 schools, care homes, and community groups, supported by initiatives including reduced ticket prices and transport support and bringing the arts directly to older people in care homes.

During the festival, 260 individual artists and creative practitioners participated or performed. Around a third of artists came from Moray, the majority came from elsewhere in Scotland and there were also other UK and international artists. The festival programme also included several events which saw local artists and groups performing and presenting alongside visiting artists. Artists said that they valued opportunities to engage with the local community and culture, reach new audiences, expand their professional networks, and explore potential collaborations. They noted that the rural location, strong community links and connection to place made the festival feel unique.

The festival delivered high-quality programming, as demonstrated by overwhelmingly positive audience feedback. 98% of survey respondents rated the festival as excellent, very good, or good. Audiences highlighted that they enjoyed multiple aspects of the festival with the top three areas being: seeing a particular performer or artist; connecting with the local community and culture and feeling inspired and creative. Key successes in terms of quality included attracting renowned performers to Moray and fostering significant community engagement.

The festival generated an estimated £687,202 in local economic benefit through visitor spending and the allocation and local expenditure of project budgets. Ticket sales analysis revealed that most income came from standard tickets, while 45% of attendees benefitted from discounted rates, reflecting the festival's commitment to accessibility. Additionally, 73.6% of FBA's festival-related spending occurred within Scotland, with around half of it directly benefiting Moray, suggesting a positive impact on the local economy and community. Local hospitality providers noted increased footfall and a boost to economic activity during the event.

FBA collaborated with 36 partners to deliver the festival, including 11 major funders, three business sponsors and 22 community or programme partners. Further information about the Festival and our partners can be found in our [Festival Evaluation and Outcomes Report](#).





## BUILDING RURAL CONNECTIONS

---

In recognition of the knowledge, skills and creative talent held within Scotland's rural communities and organisations, we have developed a regional creative partnership with Dumfries and Galloway. In collaboration with [The Stove Network](#), [Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival](#) and through regular monthly online meet ups, we have:

- Shared knowledge, skills and best practice between rural community based organisations.
- Explored small scale rural exchange opportunities.
- Considered the barriers and opportunities to rural connections & collaboration.

To date this has resulted in:

- 2 artists from Dumfries and Galloway supported to host a Culture Cafe networking meet up.
- 5 artists from Dumfries and Galloway supported to attend the Festival in 2024 and to build their connections with Moray creatives.
- 2 artists - 1 from Moray and 1 from Dumfries and Galloway supported to uptake a rural exchange and residency.
- 1 collaborative project between The Stove Network and FBA and artists from Moray and Dumfries and Galloway delivered - *The Missing Museum*

Rural Connections supports respective cultural partners' aims of encouraging grassroots participation in culture through fostering connections and exchange, sharing of skills, knowledge and experiences, development of shared models of 'creative community gathering' in non-traditional cultural and rural spaces / contexts



## WINDOW WANDERLAND

Part of the Findhorn Bay Festival, Window Wanderland is a festival of light and colour, transforming the neighbourhood into a magical trail using illuminated paper designs in windows. The streets of Forres brought smiles to hundreds of people on the opening night of Findhorn Bay Festival. Over 40 windows were created by an estimated 348 people of all ages, including local households, families, businesses, community groups and schools from the Forres area. These window-makers filled the streets with their creations focused on the theme of nature and belonging.

*“The kids loved making the images and they really loved seeing them on display so close to school - they took all their families to see the display” – Window Wanderland Group Leader*

*“We loved being part of Window Wanderland and already have some ideas for the next one. We connected with our neighbours to do matching windows!” – Window Wanderland Participant*

## BEACH OF DREAMS

[Beach of Dreams](#) invited participants to step outside, walk together, and connect with the beauty, stories, and challenges of the UK's coastlines. It created a chance to reflect on our relationship with these extraordinary landscapes, discover fresh perspectives, and imagine new possibilities for the future.

Beach of Dreams is presented by [Kinetika](#) and is supported by Arts Council England and Historic England. The festival builds on Kinetika's evolving national artwork that defines Beach of Dreams – an installation of hundreds of silk pennants, each telling a personal story of our relationship to the coast and sea. Together, these form a tapestry of hope and inspiration for our shared future. Alongside this, everyone can offer their own personal pledge to support the future of our coastal environment.



As part of our Combine to Create Programme, Findhorn Bay Arts worked with artist Amy Neville of [Naturally Useful](#), artist [Eve Mosher](#) and [Wild Things! Environmental Education in Action](#).

We invited local people to creatively connect with our coastline from Burghead to Findhorn by contributing to a local artwork of Batik silk pennants. 24 people attended workshops in Roseisle and Findhorn to create pennants. Additionally, an estimated 95 people from schools and community groups took part including:

- Burghead Nursery
- 2 classes from Burghead Primary School
- 1 class from Dallas Primary school
- The 'Silver Saplings' group in Findhorn
- 7 individuals participated via our social media call-out

The project concluded with a promenade along the coastline from Burghead to Findhorn, participants walking with over 50 silk pennants, each celebrating our connection to the coast and culminating with a gathering at Findhorn. In total, 102 silk pennants were displayed on Findhorn Beach.

FINDHORN BAY ARTS



# Our Organisation

# Fair Work

FBA is fully committed to Fair Work across its whole operations to create a positive and inclusive environment where everyone feels respected and valued. The organisation continues to embed the principles of Fair Work for staff, volunteers, artists and freelancers as part of its ongoing endeavours to be a socially responsible organisation. As part of this approach, we welcome the whole person to work, and understand that each of us brings our own experiences, backgrounds and unique lens.

FBA's Fair Work Policy aligns with the principles of the Fair Work Framework: Effective Voice, Opportunity, Security, Fulfilment & Respect. In practice, this includes the following approaches:

- FBA is a Real Living Wage Employer.
- Freelance staff are paid against union recommended rates and contracts are put in place.
- All artists programmed are paid industry standard rates and contracts are put in place
- Recruitment processes are transparent and open. FBA encourages applications from under-represented groups.
- FBA assesses supply chains to ensure Fair Work principles are applied.
- Part-time staff are offered the same terms and conditions as full-time staff.
- FBA actively supports and encourages staff training and development

# Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Findhorn Bay Arts is committed to a policy of equal opportunities for all. Our work is rooted in the communities of Moray, and as such we will always strive to ensure that those communities benefit from our work. According to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020, Moray is in one of the 20% geographically deprived areas. Forres centre itself is highlighted as one of the most deprived areas in Scotland with regards to income, employment, education, health, access to services, crime and housing.

Given the many and varied challenges facing rural communities in Moray, through our work we aim to make art, culture and creativity accessible to all. We work to reach a wide and varied audience and create opportunities to participate whenever possible. We are committed to engaging with people of all ages, abilities, backgrounds and walks of life to introduce them to opportunities to develop their involvement in arts and culture.



We will work to foster a working environment of openness and inclusivity. All those involved in our activities will be engaged with on the basis of their ability and merits and accordingly to their suitability to the activity and subsequent requirements of any assignment. We will strive to ensure no one will be disadvantaged by a condition or requirement, which is not justified by the genuine needs of the activity or task.

We work to directly address and tackle the wide-reaching inequalities experienced by all those we work with and for. This includes, but is not limited to levels of income and class; race and background; ethnicity or nationality; gender and gender identification; religious affiliation; age; hidden and visibility disabilities; sexuality; care experience; and/or English language ability.

In line with our commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, we have worked closely with diverse artists as well as facilitating inclusive workshops and performances in our community:

- Young people and adults with additional support needs from Out of the Darkness Theatre Company, Elgin were supported to train and subsequently perform with Surge outdoor performance company and young people with and without additional support needs attending University of Highlands & Islands Inverness were supported to train and perform with Hooligan Arts Community, both as part of the Festival.
- Young People with autism took part in workshops and research during the Summer and Autumn which culminated in the transformation of a community space into a tranquil and nurturing space designed with neurodivergence at its heart - the Space for Wellbeing

- People identifying as LGBTQIA+ group took part in Window Wanderland Making & design supported by one of our Associate Artists.
- Young people and their families as well as older people took part in Eve Mosher's artist Residency on 'Wind, Water and Light' culminating in an exhibition as part of the Festival.
- Young people and their families took part in Window Wanderland Forres
- Older people had bespoke performances at Care Homes, Lunch Clubs and Coffee Mornings as part of the Festival.
- Older people from Buckie and Burghead were also treated to dinner, transport and a show as part of the Festival through working in partnership with the National Theatre of Scotland

# Climate Emergency & Sustainability

Findhorn Bay Arts makes a cross- organisational and cross-project approach to sustainability and the climate emergency. In working to our value “to conserve and foster”, we recognise that people, place and planet are three parts of a dynamic rather than static ecosystem and that culture is a living thing - it stays this way through being constantly recreated.

We respond to this value through and by:

- Sustainable practices that address and combat Climate Change & the Climate Emergency.
- Achieving great things with minimal impact to the environment
- Conserving our natural, built and social heritage.
- Fostering an appreciation of our natural work, our place in rural Scotland, as well as an appreciation of the language and culture held within Moray.



We acknowledge the challenges faced by the communities and residents of Moray due to dramatic demographic shifts. As a result, we wish to play an essential role in ensuring Moray's communities are thriving and are sustainable places in which to live and work.

Since our inception, we have undertaken activities, engaged in partnerships, adopted approaches and programmed work that responds to and highlights the Climate Emergency and the resulting macro and micro it is having on the planet. The learning that has emerged as a result continues to inform our work and practices. We have an action plan in place to ensure that FBA rates climate change as a crisis- and that we take positive and necessary actions to ensure we play our role in achieving net zero before 2030 and that contribute towards a habitable planet for future generations.

In 2024, we have worked towards our action plan by:

- Taking part in networks and projects that centre environmental sustainability to inform development and learning (Green Arts Initiative, Moray Climate Action Network).
- Increase energy efficiency, ensure all equipment is switched off when not used.
- Monitoring staff and artist journeys, encouraging the use of public transport / car share where possible and working on data collection to inform future policies.
- Ban purchase of plastic products and single use products in our spaces/ events / projects
- Recycling all things that we use – printer cartridges, batteries, food (research composting)
- Engage with other experts to develop and apply our own in house 'environmental risk assessment' for event(s) and mitigate or eliminate any negative environmental impacts
- Create space for critical dialogue, advocacy and solidarity on climate and social justice throughout our programmes.

# Our Finances

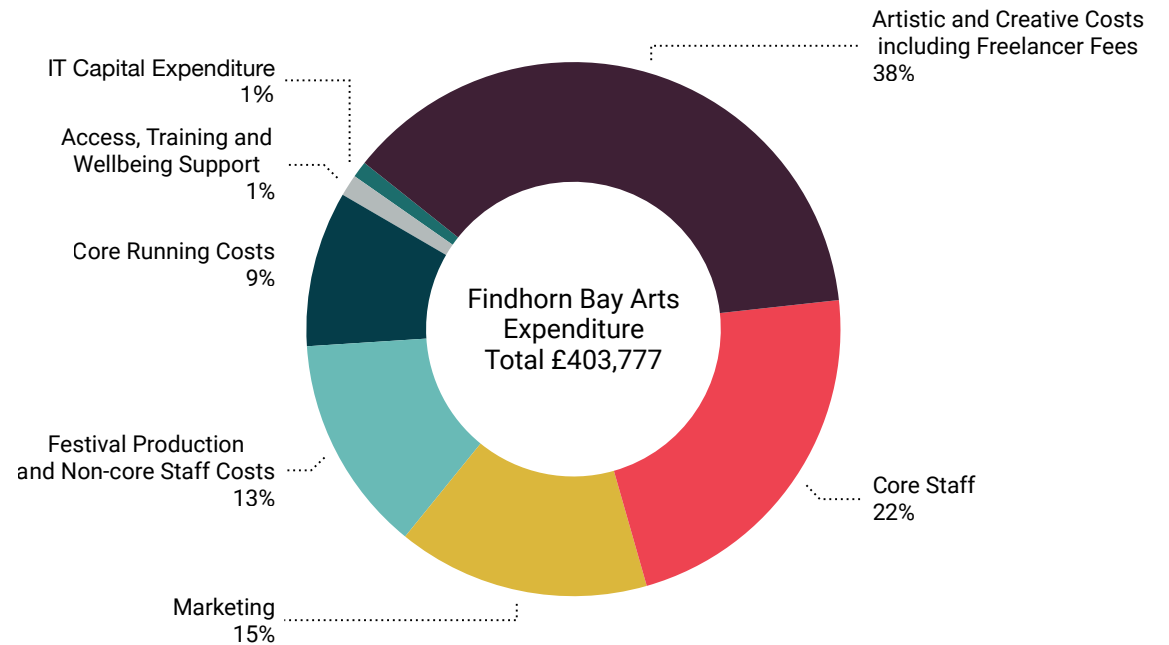
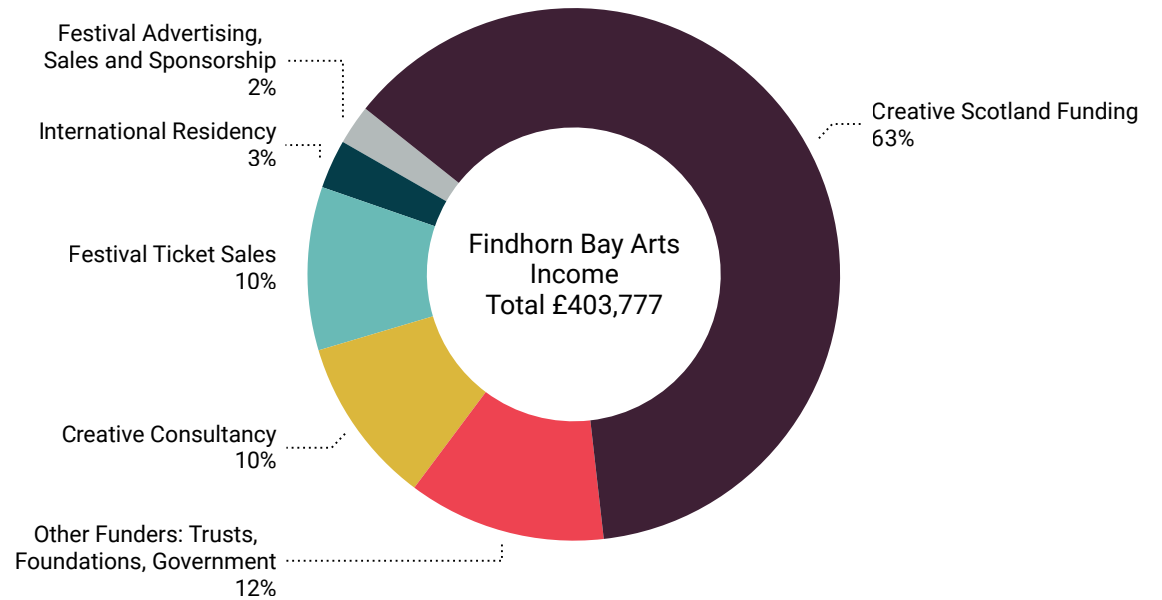


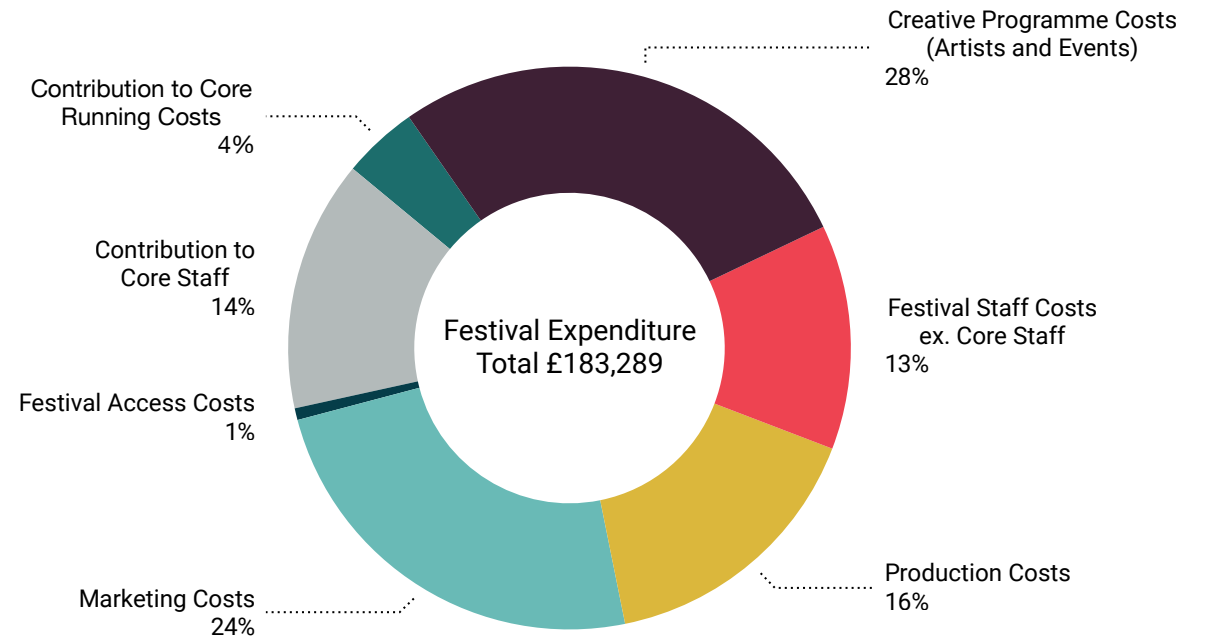
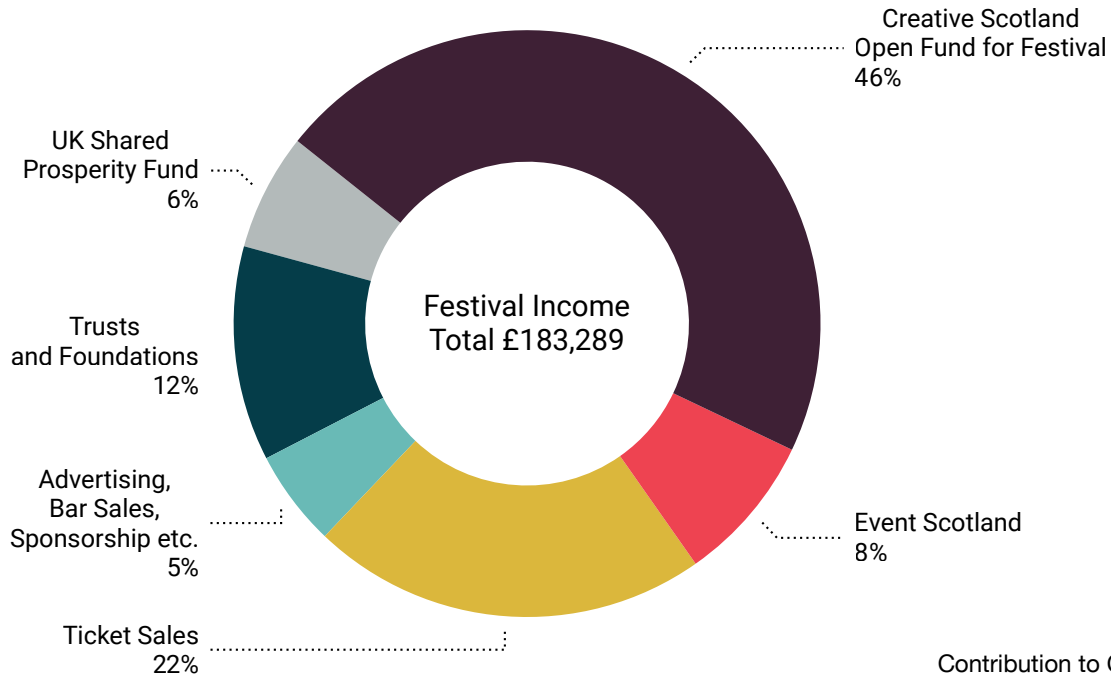
Our delivery requires income from a variety of sources. We mitigate against risk through a fundraising plan that is based on income trends and PESTLE analysis as well as our track record in attracting income from multiple trusts and foundations as well as partnerships and commissions - the options for which have increased significantly since achieving charitable status.

For festival or other ticketed events, we set targets for box office income and closely monitor these to align any additional publicity, engagement or incentive required to achieve them. We are actively increasing opportunities for audience and supporter donations at multiple points in the customer journey - including ticket purchase, event attendance and broader long-term supporter engagement initiatives.

We continue to actively explore broader options for unrestricted earned income, including small-scale retail, service delivery contracts and commissioned/partnership working as event producer, training provider or other consultancy.

Our total income over the Creative Scotland extended programme reporting period (14 months between February 2024 to April 2025) was £403,777.





FINDHORN BAY ARTS



**Looking Ahead**

As an organisation, in everything we do, we are guided by our values. These values determine how we programme, how we connect with audiences and participants and how we operate as a team. They demonstrate our deep commitment to addressing social and environmental concerns in what we do as well as the importance of participation, partnership and co-creation in how our activities are realised.

Looking ahead to the next financial year (April 2025 - March 2026), FBA plans to support artists further, deepen audience relationships, offer high-quality participation opportunities, strengthen partnerships and expand our core team and freelance staff.

Our programme of activities for this period is set out across three themes: FBA Produces, FBA Supports, FBA Connects.



# FBA Produces

We will deliver a culturally-rich, year-round programme of events which spark the imagination and enrich the lives of those living in, working in and visiting our communities.

## Findhorn Bay Festival (2026)

Findhorn Bay Festival will take place 24 September to 4 October 2026 and will be a 10-day event, hosting performances staged in unexpected spaces and scenic locations. Throughout 2025 the research and development for the festival will happen and includes; developing local, national, and international partnerships, development of marketing and communication plans, fundraising and programming. We will continue to ensure that the ethos of the festival remains firmly rooted in the community - inviting people from elsewhere to share with us the vibrancy, joy and talent of our places and community.

## Community Events (ongoing)

We will continue to develop locally-rooted events which activate our streets, landscapes and buildings to create open, accessible and creative experiences to meet the evolving needs and interests of our local communities and most marginalised residents. Decision-making around this programming strand will be led by, and directly respond to, engagement needs identified in conjunction with community partners

Current programming under development includes:

**Beach of Dreams** / For 2026 we are building on Kinetika's inaugural Beach of Dreams, and making plans to bring this event to Moray's coastline on an annual basis. We aim to produce the next Moray edition with and within the coastal communities between Buckie and Lossiemouth - highlighting impacts and responses to climate change.

**Culture Day** / For 2026 due to hugely popular demand from our local community, we are bringing back Culture Day, A fun, free, family day out, showcasing the talent, creative, cultural and heritage sector of Moray through exciting exhibitions, interactive displays, performances, talks, tours and more. In the next year, we will engage with planning and preparation for Culture Day which will take place as part of the next Findhorn Bay Festival, and we aim to produce Culture Day on an annual basis thereafter.

# FBA Supports

We will build on our established methodology and track-record of delivering deeply embedded participatory creative activities - led by socially-engaged artists and practitioners, supporting harder to reach groups and building creative skills and opportunities.

## **Combine to Create: Community Embedded Residency Programme**

We will support two artists to take up residency within two rural communities and focus around the community halls where activity will take place. Working in partnership with local residents, cultural practitioners will use socially engaged practice to explore ideas, issues, ecologies and stories that matter to local people and their unique heritage and culture. The output of the work will be showcased as part of the festival in 2026.

## **International Artist Exchange (2026)**

We will develop a facilitated programme of international creative exchange, based on developing relationships with international partners that have synergies with our own context and priorities - particularly those working rurally and with programmes responding to themes of environment and climate. We are currently exploring these partnership opportunities within Ireland as well as seeking ways to develop our existing creative relationship with a Brittany-based partner.

# FBA Connects

We will nurture and support creatives, practitioners and peers to provide opportunities to develop new work, test out ideas and share learnings - particularly amongst those working in rural and isolated communities.

## Rural Connections

We will continue to work with rural based arts organisations in Dumfries and Galloway, to explore options for creatives in each region to have routes to showcase, exchange and collaborate.

## Creative Networking

Culture Café brings together those working in the arts who are interested in networking, sharing ideas, developing partnerships and peer support. In 2025, we will support the delivery of 3 Culture Cafe events in Moray to happen. We, FBA will deliver one of these and we will provide the finance and support for up to two others to happen.

Out to Lunch will provide an opportunity for local art and cultural organisations to meet and support peer to peer learning, explore and develop ideas, and to connect with each other through a quarterly lunch time meet up.

## Creative Learning Exchange: The Space Between (2025)

We will deliver two 2-day creative learning exchange on the 25 & 26 September 2025 underpinned by the theme the space between. The event will bring together artists and creative practitioners, local organisations, community groups and the third sector. Underpinned by the theme of the space between will include workshops, discussions, presentations and training to facilitate the sharing of ideas & methodologies, how we support and inspire new ways of working within and between ourselves, creative practitioners and communities and the active role of creativity in place-making.

# FINDHORN BAY ARTS

Making creative things happen in Moray and beyond

[findhornbayarts.com](http://findhornbayarts.com)

Findhorn Bay Arts is a charity registered in Scotland. Charity No. SC049867. Company No. SC413997. Registered  
Address: 98 High Street, Forres, Moray IV36 1NX

**Photo Credits:** Mark Richards (Aurora Imaging), Marc Hindley, Alain Le Boudonnec Plouaret, Eve Mosher

