



**SURF**  
Scotland's Regeneration Forum

SURF : sharing experience : shaping practice



## The importance of culture and creative arts in community regeneration: SURF Awards Shared Learning Workshop – 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019

### Background

SURF and the Scottish Government work together to identify and highlight excellence and innovation in initiatives that address social and economic challenges in disadvantaged communities through the annual SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration.

This **free half-day SURF Awards workshop event in Paisley Arts Centre, Paisley on 30th May** provides an opportunity to explore successful approaches towards linking creative arts and culture into regeneration initiatives. The winning and highly commended projects from the 'Creative Regeneration' category highlighted in the 2018 SURF Awards process will provide comment on their experiences and transferable learning.



(l-r): Findhorn Bay Arts and WHALE Arts

Workshop guests will firstly hear from a project representative from the 'Creative Regeneration' category winner **Findhorn Bay Arts**. Based in Forres, Moray, their aim is to deliver high quality regional arts activities to showcase local artists, improve pride of place, support the economy, provide opportunities for young people and attract visitors.

Guests will then hear from the second of the highly commended projects **WHALE Arts**. Founded by local community members in 1992. Starting life in a porta-cabin, it has since established itself as the cultural anchor organisation for Wester Hailes.

The event will close with presentations from **Creative Scotland** and **Arts and Business Scotland** providing detail on their current priorities towards supporting creative arts organisations. Finally, this will be followed by a short input from the **Paisley Partnership** on the continuing role of cultural regeneration in Paisley. It will then open up to a discussion on National Policy.

The SURF Awards 'Creative Regeneration' judging panel team – comprising representatives of Creative Scotland, Arts and Business Scotland, RIG Arts and Plantation Productions – were particularly enthused by the collaborative approaches taken by each project and the lasting impact in each area within all three shortlisted projects in this category. The judges will be participating in the workshop, which also features a discussion session and networking lunch, to help draw out transferable lessons from the participating projects.

## Programme

10:00am Welcome and Coffee

10:30am Introduction: **Andy Milne**, Chief Executive, SURF

10:40am Presentation, Findhorn Bay Arts: **Kresanna Aiger**, Findhorn Bay Arts

10:55am Presentation, WHALE Arts: **Leah Black**, WHALE Arts

11:05am Open Discussion, Questions and Comments with representatives from the projects:  
Chaired by **Kate Wimpress**, Chair, SURF

11:25am Presentation, Creative Scotland: **Gary Cameron**, Creative Scotland

11:35am Presentation, Arts and Business Scotland: **David Watt**, A&B Scotland

11:45pm Presentation, Paisley Regeneration: **Susan Jones**, Renfrewshire Council

11:55pm Open Discussion on National Policy: Chaired by **Kate Wimpress**, Chair, SURF

12:25pm Summary, Thanks and What's Next: **Andy Milne** and **Emma Scott**, Information, Communications & Events Officer, SURF

12:35pm Networking Lunch

## About the SURF Awards

Please visit [www.surf.scot](http://www.surf.scot) for more information on the SURF Awards and the outcomes of the 2018 process.

Check back the website or follow us on Twitter @SURFscot or Facebook – SURF for information on how to apply for the 2019 SURF Awards, which launch on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June and close for applications at 5pm on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.