



SURF
Scotland's Regeneration Forum

SURF : sharing experience : shaping practice



How can embedding artistic approaches enable communities to become agents for change? SURF Awards Shared Learning Workshop – 29th July 2021

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 Virtual SURF Awards workshop event on 29th July** 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 2020 SURF Awards process will provide comment on their experiences and transferable learning.



(l-r): The Glasgow Barons, Toonspeak Young People's Theatre and Creative Steps

Workshop guests will firstly hear from a project representative from the 'Creative Regeneration' category winner **The Glasgow Barons**. Based in Govan, the project aims to revitalise the inner city area of Govan through music. A modern orchestral ensemble founded in 2018, they put on a range of events and workshops, aiming to release creativity within the community and raise the areas profile as a creative hub.

Guests will then hear from highly commended **Toonspeak Young People's Theatre**. Working in some of Glasgow's most deprived communities, the project aims to empower young people, provide a space to explore creativity and raise skills and confidence.

Finally, guests will then hear from the second of the highly commended projects **Creative Steps to Positive Mental Health**. Based in Govan, working across the Southside of Glasgow, and led by Plantation Productions, the project aims to provide creative peer support to people experiencing poor mental health and isolation.

The event will close with presentations from **Creative Scotland** providing detail on their current priorities towards supporting creative arts organisations and the Culture Strategy. It will then open up to a discussion on National Policy.

The SURF Awards 'Creative Regeneration' judging panel team – comprising representatives of Creative Scotland, WHALE Arts, Bellsmyre Development Trust and RIG Arts - were particularly enthused by the projects ability to adapt their services due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the lasting impact felt in each area within all three shortlisted projects in this category.

This workshop is being delivered with support from Creative Scotland.

Programme

10:30am Welcome and Introduction: **Euan Leitch**, Chief Executive, SURF
10:35am Presentation, The Glasgow Barons: **Paul MacAlinden**, Artistic Director
10:45am Presentation, Toonspeak Young People's Theatre: **Hazel Wotherspoon**, Toonspeak
10:55am Presentation, Creative Steps: **Vanessa van Scherpenseel**, Plantation Productions
11:05am Open Discussion, Questions and Comments with representatives from the projects
11:20am Presentation, Creative Scotland: **Karen Dick and Jenny Tipton**, Creative Scotland
11:30pm Open Discussion on National Policy
11:50pm Summary, Thanks and What's Next: **Euan Leitch** and **Emma Scott**, Events, Information & Communications Manager, SURF
12.00pm Close

About the SURF Awards

Please visit www.surf.scot for more information on the SURF Awards and the outcomes of the 2020 process.

Check the website or follow us on Twitter @SURFscot or Facebook – SURF for information on how to apply for the 2021 SURF Awards, which launched on Thursday 3rd June and close for applications at 5pm on Monday 6th September.