

press release



Falkirk Council

04 May 2011

Hippodrome in Running For Top Scottish Award

Scotland's oldest purpose built cinema - The Hippodrome in Bo'ness - has picked up a top professional award in recognition of its strong links with its local community.

The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Scotland named the cinema as the category winner in its 'Community Benefit Award' and Scotland's oldest purpose built cinema will now go forward as one of four in the overall RICS Scotland Building Project of the year.

A joint bid between Scottish Historic building Trust (the cinema owners) and Falkirk Council (who currently run the cinema) was submitted early this year and was able to demonstrate a number of ways that the cinema had gone to the heart of its community.

This included:

- The value local traders place on the cinema and how they have experienced greater footfall especially during matinee screenings;
- Community feedback that shows the friendly, intimate visitor experience in the restored surroundings are valued;
- The economic impact the cinema has had locally with over 40,000 visitors in the first two years of operation and;
- The regular engagement with the local audience through a number of different heritage and reminiscence projects.

Cllr Adrian Mahoney, Falkirk Council's Convener of Leisure, Tourism and Community said: 'This Community Benefit Award is a fabulous accolade to achieve and we are very excited about being the final four for the main RICS award.

'The connection between the Hippodrome and its local audience is clear to everyone that visits the cinema and its restoration and integration into local life has boosted community and business spirits.

'It has become an icon for the town and the surrounding area and shows what can be done when it comes to restoring and preserving our heritage. We believe that this strong community link will continue for many decades to come.'

Graeme Hartley, director, RICS Scotland, added: "The RICS Scotland Awards exemplify how property professionals with inspirational schemes, large and small, can transform our lives, our communities and our environment. I would like to congratulate the team involved in bringing The Hippodrome back to life to the benefit of the community."

The winner of the event will be announced at a ceremony in Edinburgh on Tuesday 17 May.

www.falkirk.gov.uk/hippodrome

